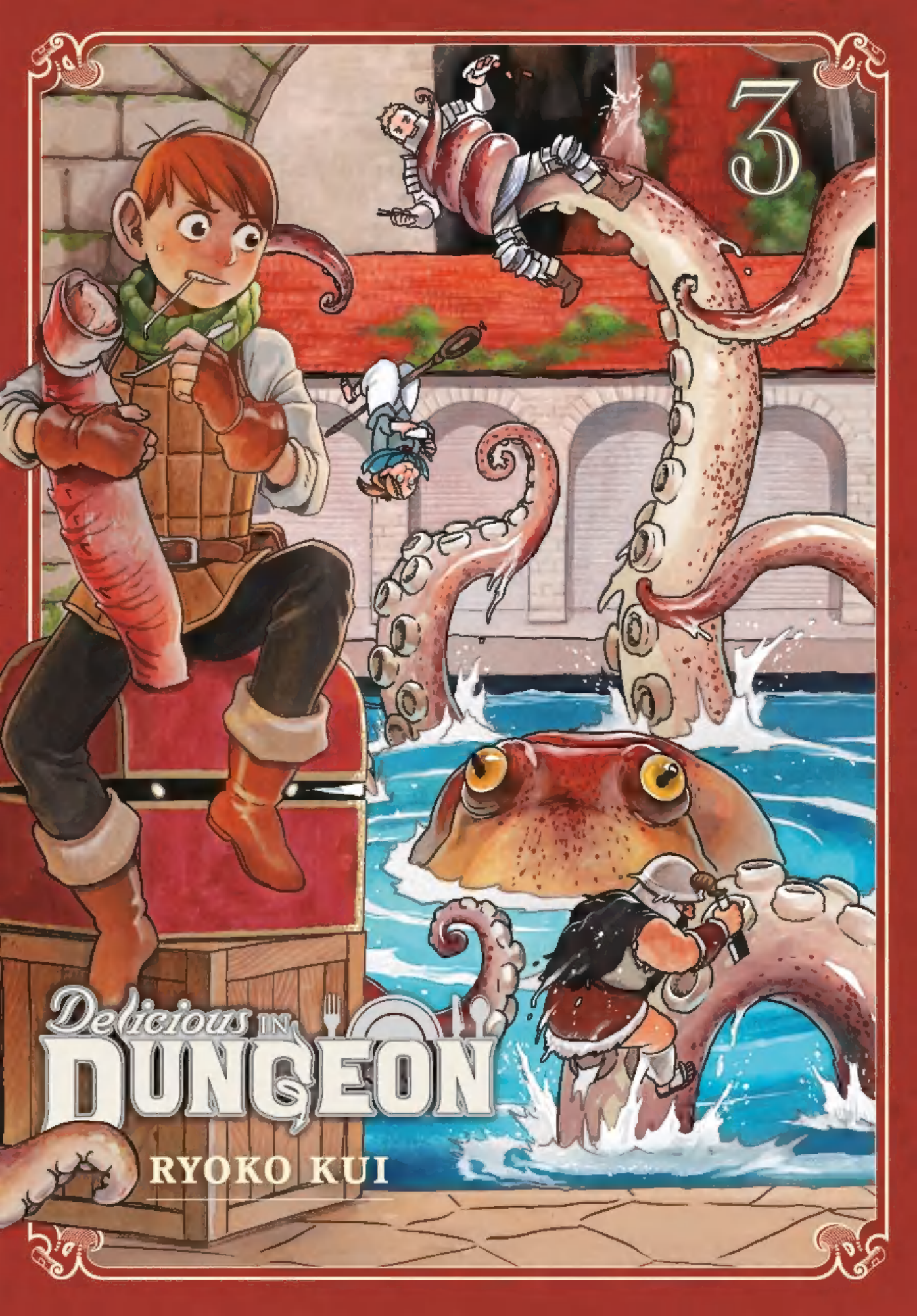
3
Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI

Delicious in Dungeon

Ryoko Kui

3

Delicious in Dungeon

3

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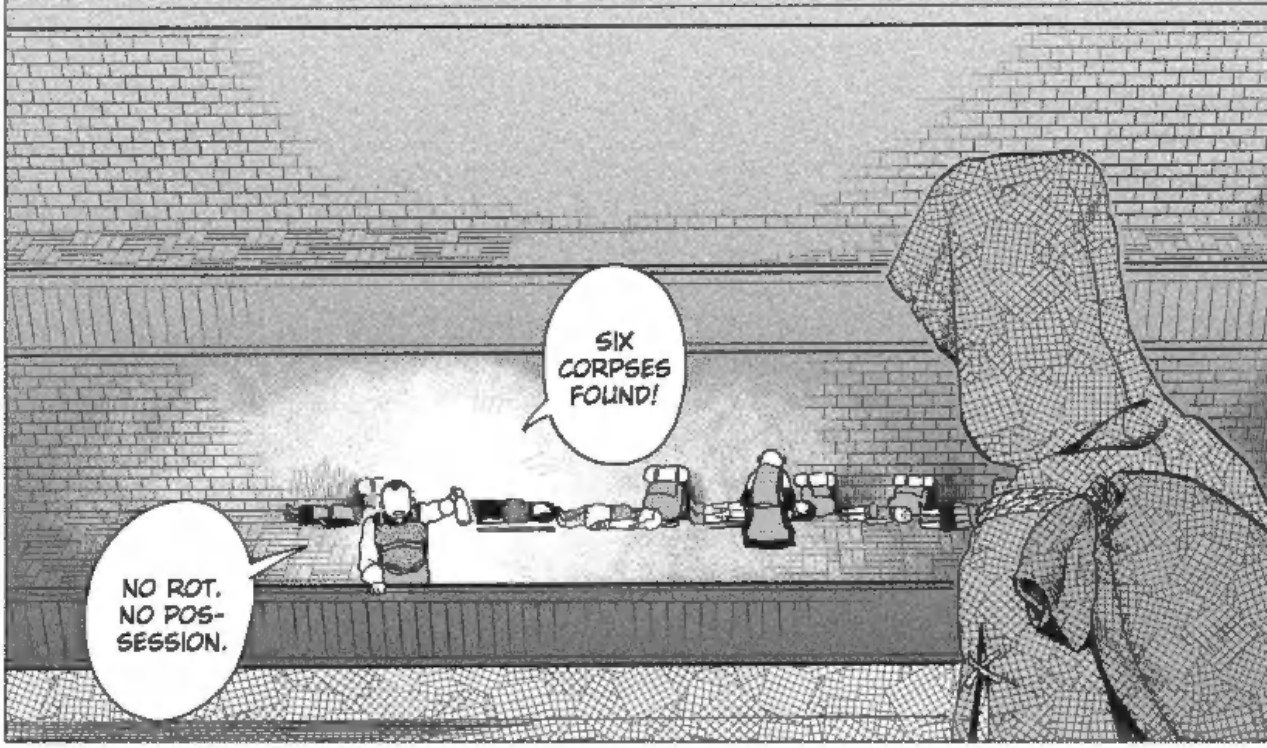
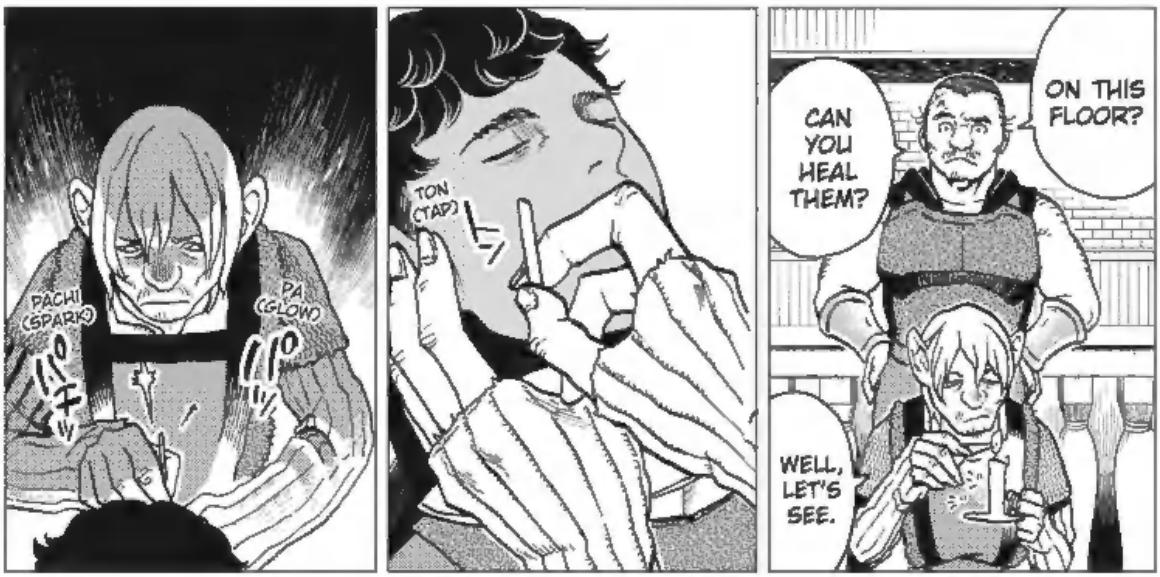
15. Porridge


SIX CORPSES FOUND!
NO ROT. NO POS-SESSION.

THERE'S A SMALL BITE ON HIS NECK.
IT WAS SOME SORT OF BUG.
THEY'RE NOT DEAD.
JUST PARA-LYZED.
!


PACHI (SPARK)
PA (GLOW)
TON (TAP)
ON THIS FLOOR?
CAN YOU HEAL THEM?
WELL, LET'S SEE.

HA!
KOFF!
KOFF, KOFF.
THERE WE GO.
!?
KOFF...
!?
SIX HUNDRED GOLD EACH FOR THE REVIVIFICATION.
WE'LL CUT YOU A DEAL AND TAKE 3,500 GOLD FOR THE SIX OF YOU.
OH!
WE... GOT WIPED OUT?
BY WHAT?
WE'VE LOST A FEW POSSESSIONS.
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING?
AH! MY COINS!
MY NECKLACE IS GONE!
ALL THE JEWELS ARE GONE TOO.
IT WAS TREASURE INSECTS, ALL RIGHT.
SHH.

I BET THEY STOLE 'EM.
YOU CAN'T TRUST CORPSE RETRIEV-ERS.
BOSO (MMBL)
SOMEBODY MUST'VE COME BY BEFORE WE DID.
NAH, WE DUNNO ANYTHING.
YOU WERE LYING HERE, ALL LINED UP.
APPAR-ENTLY, SOMEONE ELSE REALLY WAS HERE.
IT'S A SPELL TO REPEL GHOSTS.
A HAIR...
TSUUU (PULL)
ELF...
SU (SHFF)
SUN
SUN (SNIFF)

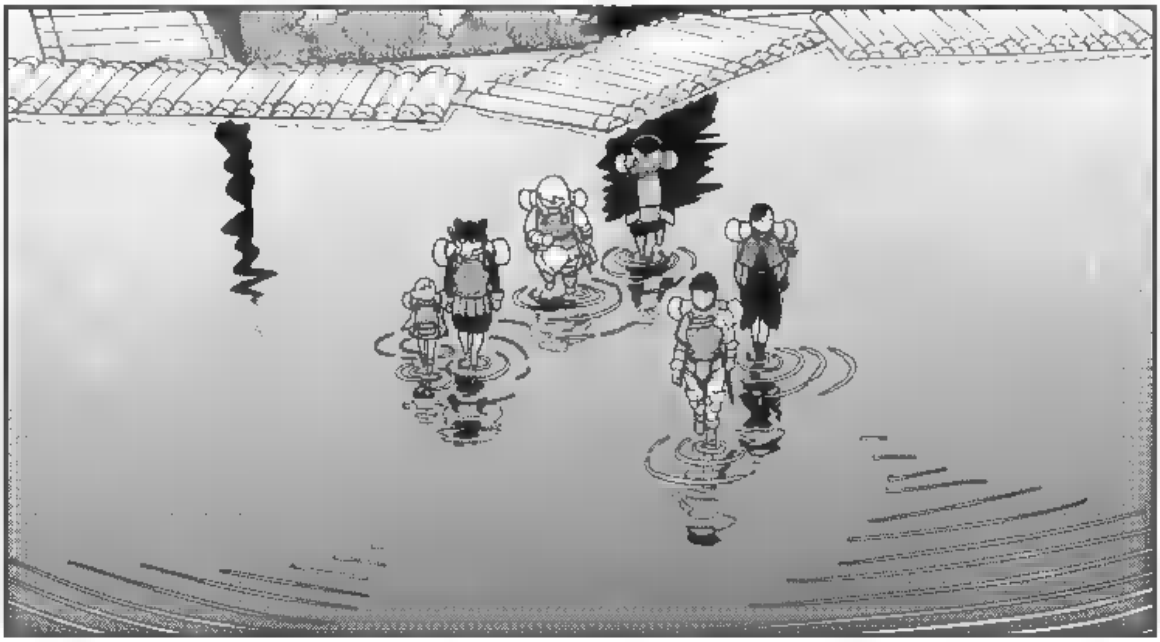
TALL-MAN...
SUN
HALF-FOOT.
DWARF...
SUN
AND THEY ATE HERE.
THEY ATE!?

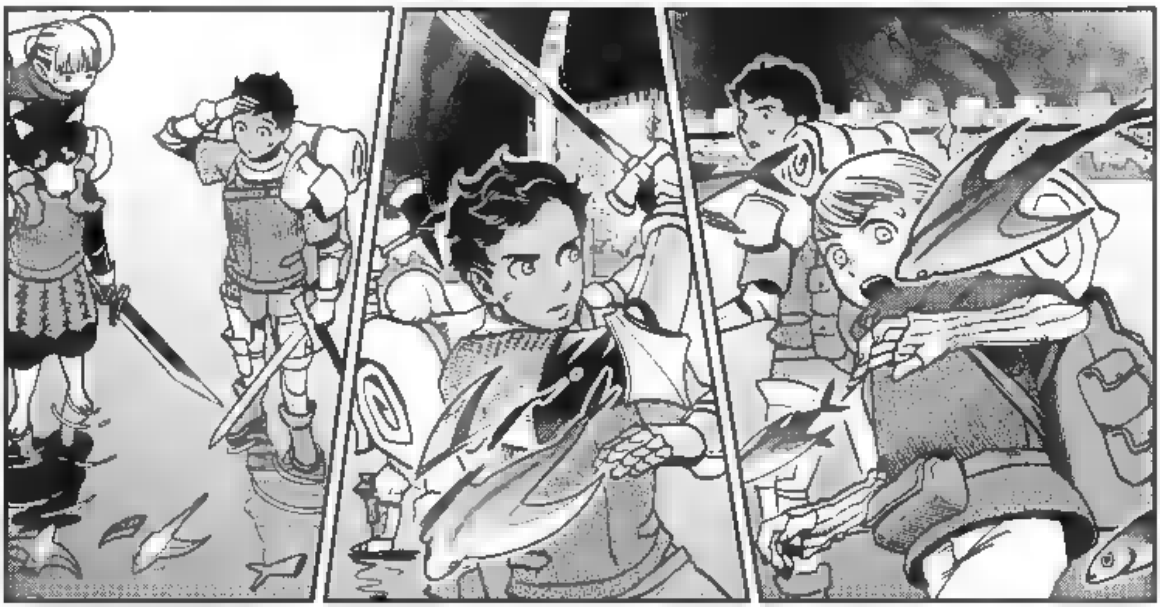
JARIN (JINGLE)
THANKS MUCH.
HOLD IT.
WE'RE NOT RUNNING A CHARITY HERE.
WHO WOULD DO THAT!?
TCH! LET'S GO FIND THEM!

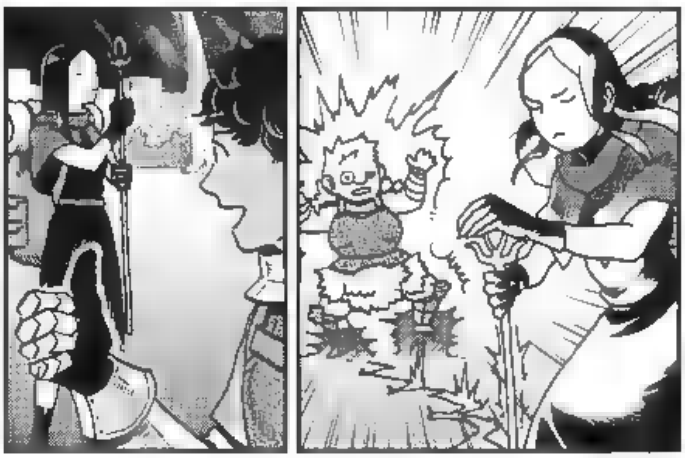
WHY SHOULD WE?
CHARI (CLINK)
THE MORE CORPSES THE BETTER.
...WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL THEM?

4F BELOW-GROUND
RIN, CAST THE WATER-WALK SPELL.
CAN'T TELL.
SUN
スン
SUN (SNIFF)
IT'S NO GOOD BY THE WATER, HM?
I STILL DON'T SEE ANYBODY.
WHAT ABOUT THE SCENT?
IT FEELS LIKE ANY-THING COULD BE UNDER ME.
TON
トン
TON
トン
HAAH...
TON (TAP)
トン
I HATE THIS FLOOR.
O

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID OF MONSTERS IF YOU HANDLE THEM PROPERLY.
WHAT SORT OF MONSTERS LIVE HERE?
THERE ARE NO TRAPS HERE, SO WE CAN FOCUS ON THE ENEMY.
WE'LL JUST BE CAUTIOUS AND KEEP MOVING.
MERMAIDS AND SLIMES?
KRAKENS.
TENTA-CLES, UNDINES ...
KELPIES.
YEAH!
IF YOU KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM, NONE OF THEM ARE HARD TO HANDLE INDI-VIDUALLY.
LET'S STAY CALM SO WE CAN TAKE WHAT-EVER COMES AT US!







KURO?
FURA (WANDER)
PIKURI (TWITCH)
I HEAR SOME-THING...
...IT'S A SONG!
PIKU (FLINCH)
OH!
KURO'S ACTING FUNNY!
FURAAA
G-GUYS!
PUT IN EARPLUGS, OR THEY'LL MANIPULATE YOU!
MERMAIDS, HM? NOT GOOD.

MERMAIDS BEWITCH PEOPLE WITH THEIR SONGS AND PULL THEM UNDERWATER...!
...BUT THEY DON'T ATTACK DIRECTLY.

WE'LL BE FINE NOW.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS WITH SHARP EARS.

KON (TONK)
IT'S A SHAME WE CAN'T HEAR THEIR BEAUTIFUL VOICES, THOUGH.
LET ME GUESS WHAT YOU SAID.
"LOOK AT ME, NOT THE MER-MAIDS"?
WHAT, RIN?
WHY ARE YOU SULKING?
YOU'D BE CUTE IF YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
AH HA HA.
CHAPU (SPLISH)

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.
CHAPU (SPLISH)
SUN (SNIFF)
スン？
GOSH! (RUB)
YIP!
PASHAN (SPLASH)
PI (PLIP)
KURO?
G...
GUYS, WAIT!
WAIT ...!!

BA (WHIP)
WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT?
HOLD UP, RIN.
EEEE

HAAH...

C'MON, LET'S JUST GO.
YOU THINK WE COULD CARRY A WHOLE HORSE!?
I TOLD YOU!
MAGIC DOESN'T WORK ON SENSHI, SO WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE!

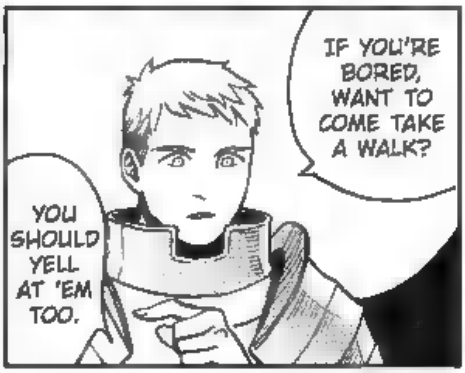
WHAT'S WITH THESE PEOPLE!?
IS THIS WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO!?

チラ
CHIRA (GLANCE)

I HOPE THOSE AREN'T PEOPLE. LET'S GO LOOK.
DO WE HAVE TO...?

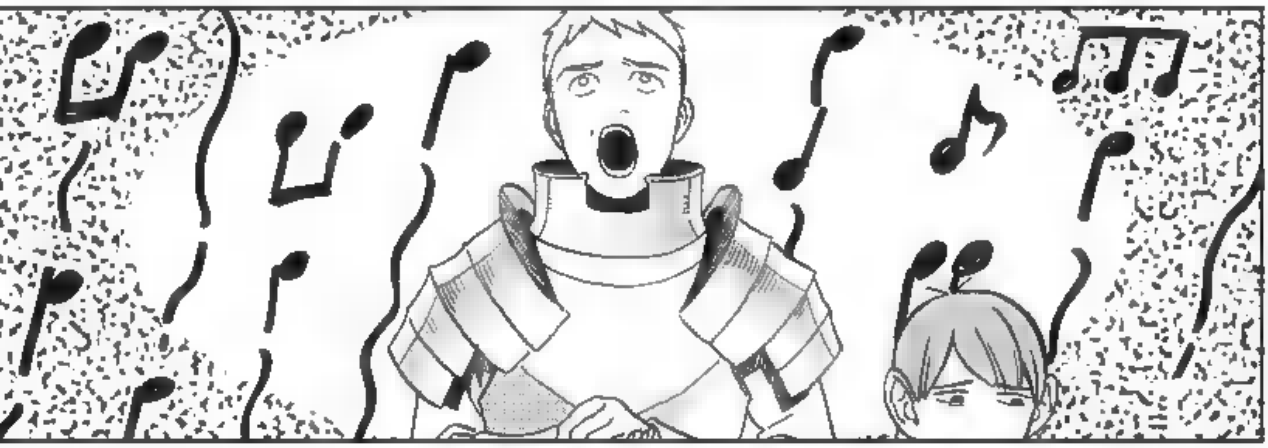
THERE'S SOMETHING FLOATING OVER THERE.

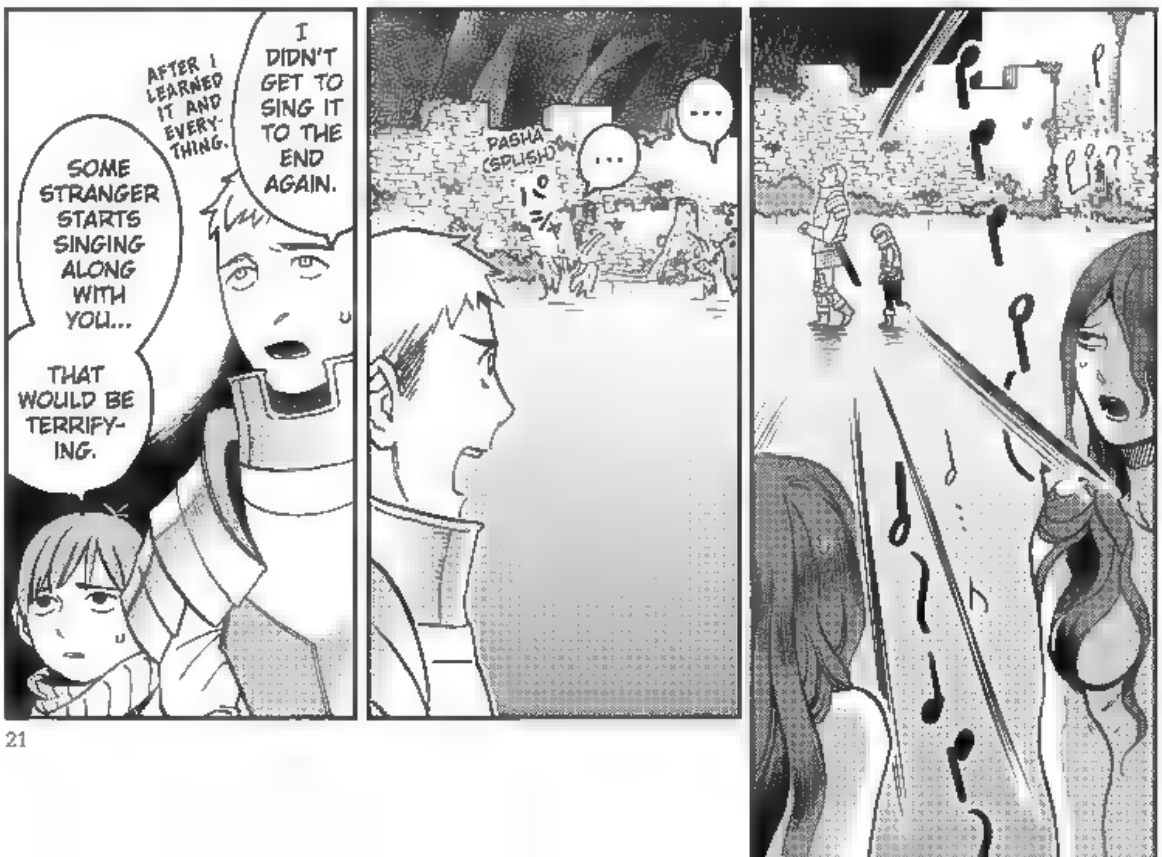
LET'S JUST GIVE UP AND PULL HIM ON A RAFT.
WHAT? THE HECK? TAKING IT OUT ON ME?
I DUNNO IF IT'S WORTH GOING TO THE TROUBLE.
CHIL-CHUCK.


IF YOU'RE BORED, WANT TO COME TAKE A WALK?
YOU SHOULD YELL AT 'EM TOO.

HEY, A BACK-PACK.
THE SUPPLIES ARE LEAKING OUT.
IT'S GRAIN.
WHAT'S THIS WHITE STUFF?
HM?
SAY, DOES THIS GUY LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?
NO.
WATER-WALK'S ALMOST WORN OFF.
LET'S HAUL THEM UP ON LAND.
THERE'S ONE WITH AN OWNER!
WHOA.
HOW DID THEY GET AHEAD OF US?
A BEAST-MAN COMPANION... LUCKY...
HEY! I RECOGNIZE THIS KOBOLD. IT WAS LYING UP ON THE THIRD FLOOR!

THEY FELL FIGHTING MERMAIDS, HUH?
OH MAN...
GURUN (FLIP)
YAGH!
CHIL-CHUCK!
FURA (WANDER)
CHIL-CHUCK?
.....
POOR...
... GUYS ...
CHIL-CHUCK !!
BIKU (FLINCH)
SUPAN (CLAPP)
CHIL!!



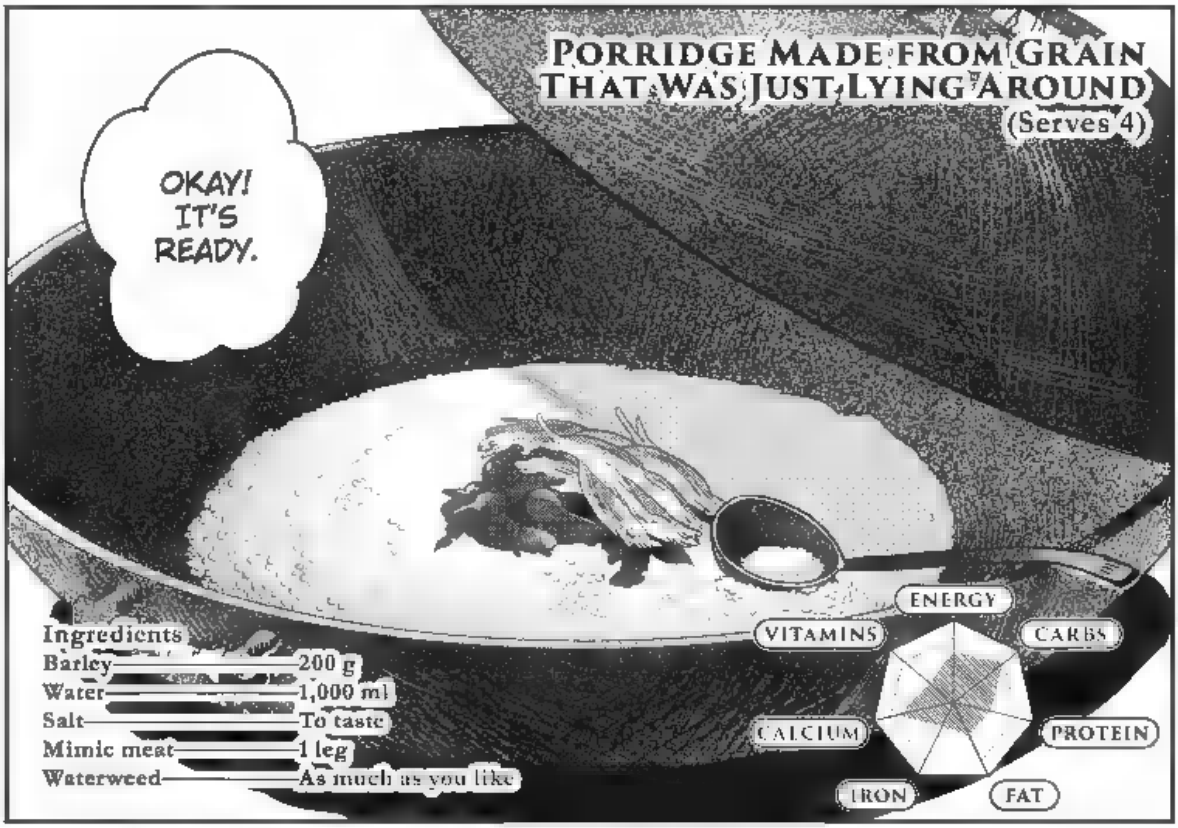

I DIDN'T GET TO SING IT TO THE END AGAIN.
AFTER I LEARNED IT AND EVERY-THING.
SOME STRANGER STARTS SINGING ALONG WITH YOU...
THAT WOULD BE TERRIFY-ING.
PASHA (SPLISH)
...
...

PHEW!
I HOPE THE CORPSE RETRIEVERS FIND THEM SOON.
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
I DOUBT THEY'D WANT IT.
THAT SCATTERED GRAIN IS A WASTE.
SHOULD WE PICK IT UP FOR THEM?
YAAAY!
POOR MARCILLE.
THEN WE'LL TAKE IT.
THAT SHOULD MAKE MARCILLE HAPPY.
DEMI-HUMANS ...
DEMI-HUMANS ...
I HADN'T SAID ANYTHING YET...
WE PROMISED WE WOULDN'T TOUCH DEMI-HUMANS.
PAN (WHAP)
NO!!

THIS IS THE PISCINE TYPE.
THEY HAVE GILLS, AND SINCE THEY LAY EGGS, THEY DON'T HAVE BELLY BUTTONS OR NIPPLES.
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF MER-MAIDS—
MAMMA-LIAN AND PISCINE.
WHAT ARE THEY, ANY-WAY?
SAY WHAT?
SMART ENOUGH TO USE SPEARS?
MADE IT THEM-SELVES? BLACK-SMITHS?
ARMS LOOK HUMAN...
FACE IS 100% FISH.
THEY'VE GOT FINGERS TOO...
EAT...
ON THE SPECTRUM, THEY'RE FURTHER FROM PEOPLE THAN COWS OR PIGS.
...I THINK...
FEEL-INGS ...!?
FEEL-INGS, HUH?
DON'T TOUCH ME!
IT JUST...
...FEELS NASTY!
TELL ME! WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT!?
WHY ARE COWS OKAY BUT NOT FISH-MEN!?
NOOO!!
HUUUUUH!?

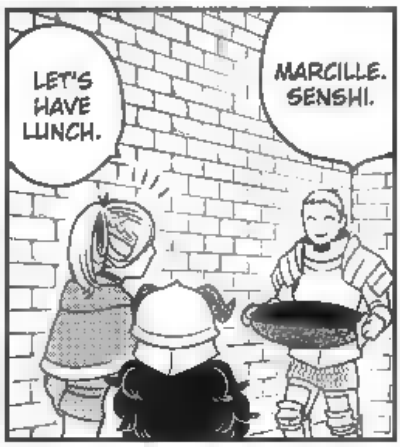
I'M HUNGRY.
THEY'RE STILL AT IT.
LET'S MAKE SOME-THING.
WHEE!
WHAT IF WATER-WALK IS STILL ACTIVE AND IT DOESN'T ABSORB THE WATER?
THE CASTER IS DEAD. SHOULD BE FINE.
ADD WATER AND GRAIN, THEN SET IT OVER A FIRE.
...AND WATER-WEED.
ADD SHREDDED MIMIC MEAT...

HOLD IT.
THAT STUFF WAS GROWING ON THE FISH-MAN'S HEAD, WASN'T IT?
YES, BUT...
...THIS IS REALLY AND TRULY JUST A PLANT.
IT HAS ROOTS, BUT THEY'RE JUST FOR STABILITY.
IT DOESN'T ABSORB NUTRIENTS THROUGH THEM.
THE FISH-MEN USE IT FOR CAMOU-FLAGE.
WITHOUT IT, THEY'D PROBABLY LOOK MORE LIKE FISH.
IS THAT STILL NOT OKAY WITH YOUR "FEELINGS"?
AGH.
THIS IS GONNA BE A PAIN.
FINE, FINE.
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
NIKKORI (BEAM)
I THINK I JUST MADE A BAD DECISION.
DOKI (BADMP)
DOKI


PORRIDGE MADE FROM GRAIN THAT WAS JUST LYING AROUND
(Serves 4)
OKAY! IT'S READY.
Ingredients
Barley 200 g
Water 1,000 ml
Salt To taste
Mimic meat 1 leg
Waterweed As much as you like
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS

GRAIN?
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?

THAT TIME ALREADY?
HUH!?
YOU MADE THAT, LAIOS!?


MARCILLE. SENSHI.
LET'S HAVE LUNCH.

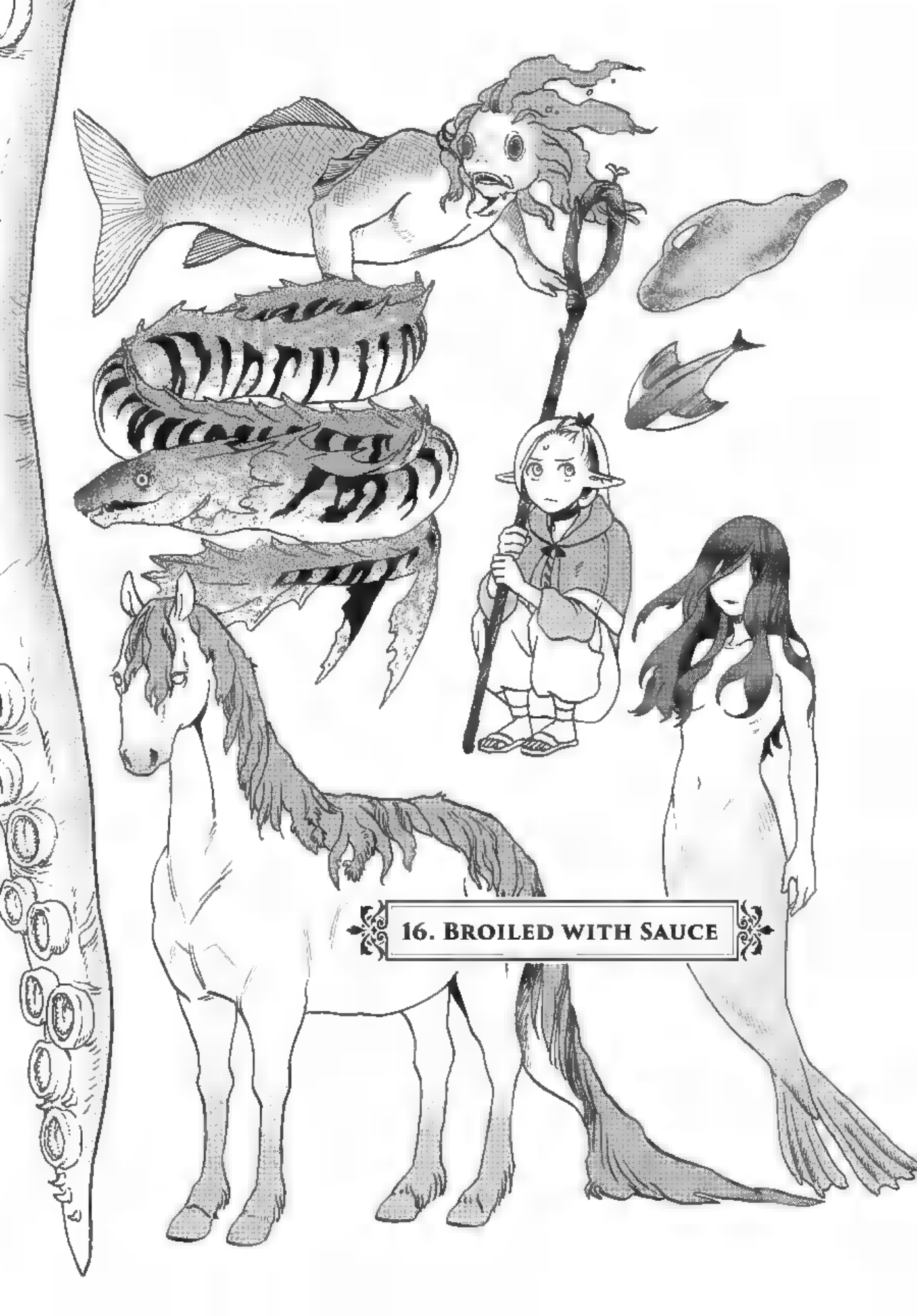
WELL, YOU ALREADY MADE IT, SO THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT.

NOT GOOD. IT SLIPPED RIGHT BY ME.
HAAH...
SHE'S RIGHT. THAT WASN'T OKAY, WAS IT?
THAT'S MARCILLE FOR YOU.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
IT BELONGED TO SOME DEAD ADVENTURERS OVER THERE.
OH.

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT POPS IN HERE.
WHAT IS IT?
MOGU (CHEW)
もぐ
HUFF!
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
FWOO... FWOO...
I'M GLAD I PUT THEM IN.
HM. IT'S GOOD.
ISN'T IT?
FISH EGGS, MAYBE?
THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON THE WATER-WEED.
DO THEY? YOU SURE KNOW A LOT, CHILCHUCK.
LISTEN, YOU...
I BET FISH-MEN KEEP THEIR EGGS IN THE WATERWEED ON THEIR HEADS TO PROTECT THEM, RIGHT!?
THOSE ARE FISH-MEN EGGS, AREN'T THEY!?
C'MERE A SECOND.

UH-HUH!
MARCILLE, THAT STUFF...
.....
IS IT GOOD?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DID YOU SERIOUSLY NOT KNOW?
...WELL, WHATEVER.
IT TASTES NORMAL.
.....
IS IT REALLY JUST A MATTER OF FEELINGS?
A MATTER OF FEELINGS...
FEELINGS...



16. Broiled with Sauce

AGH! MORE OF THEM!
PA (SPLISH)
BA (WHOOSH)
BA
NO, STOP!
LET ME HANDLE THIS!
I'LL GET RID OF ALL OF THEM!

BO
(BWOOSH)
OW!
ZAAAAAA
(FWSHHHD
LOOK OUT!

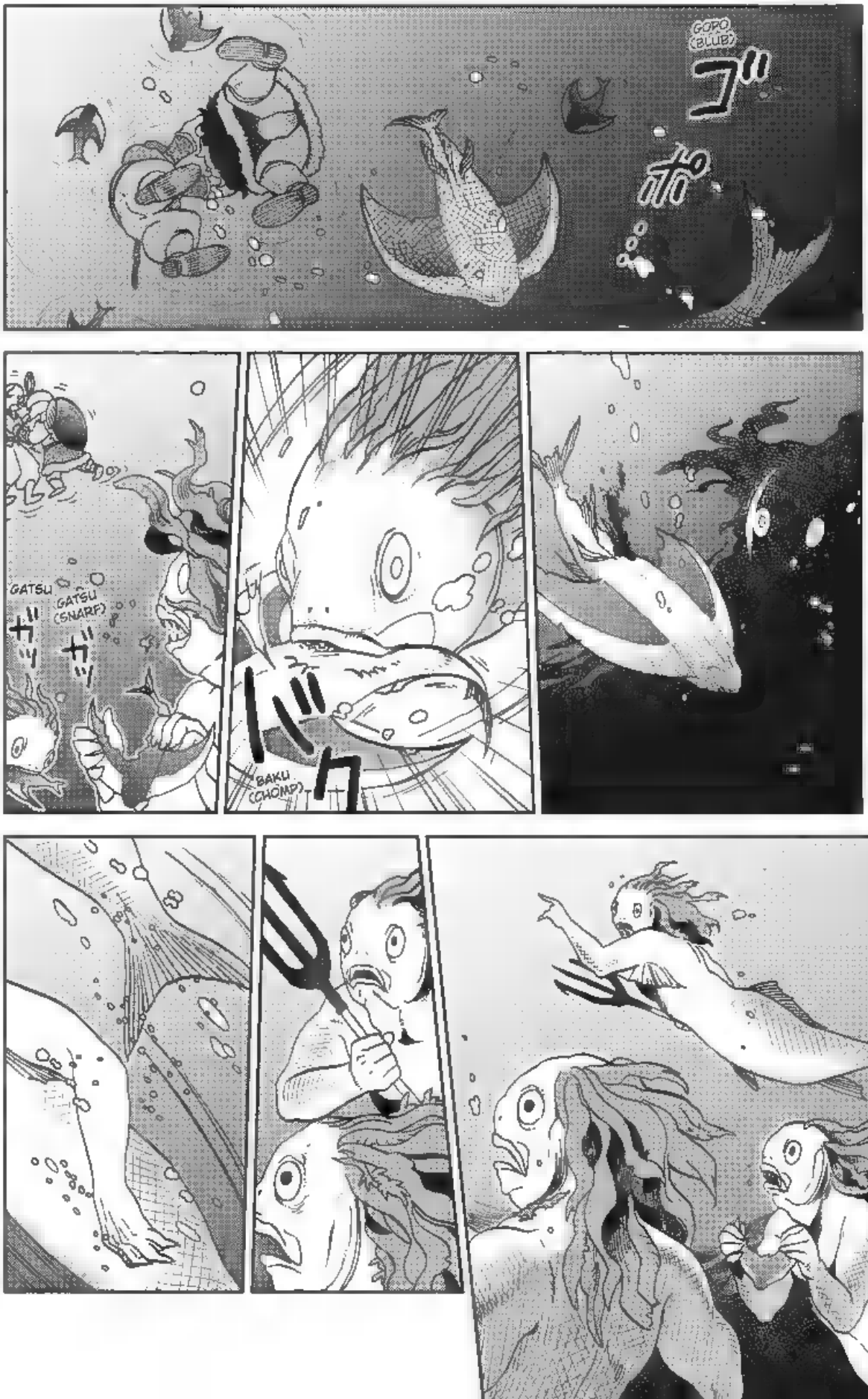
I TOLD YOU TO STOP!!
RRRGH!-

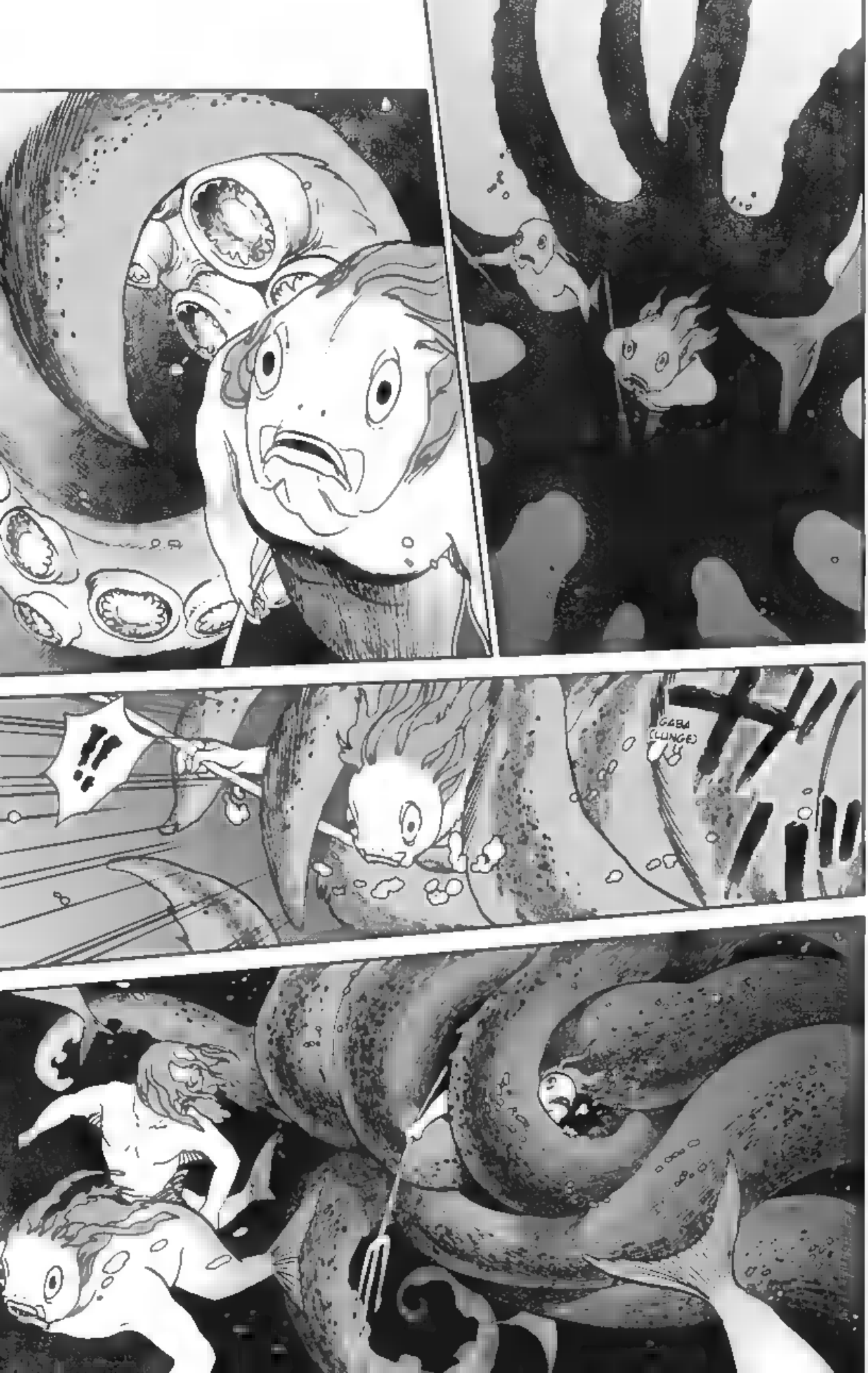
HUH!?
NO UNDER-WATER EXPLO-SIONS!
THEY KILL TOO MUCH!

...OTHER MONSTERS EAT THEM TOO.
IF THEIR NUMBERS DROP, IT WILL AFFECT THE DUNGEON'S ECOSYSTEM.

THESE BLADE FISH CAN BE BOILED, GRILLED, STEAMED, DRIED, SMOKED, OR EATEN RAW.
THEY'RE GOOD NO MATTER HOW YOU FIX 'EM, BUT...

YOU KNOW, THERE DO SEEM TO BE FEWER MID-SIZE MONSTERS THAN NORMAL...
THERE, YOU SEE!?
IT'S MY FAULT?
WHAT!?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO THAT, AIM FOR THEM ONE AT A TIME!
THAT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE!
THERE ARE MORE BLADE FISH THAN USUAL ANYWAY.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO HOLD BACK.
THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL US.
30か...
PUKA (BOB)
WHAT IF WE [redacted] BEING ABLE TO EAT!?
I DON'T WANT TO DIE PROTECTING THE MONSTERS' ECO-SYSTEM!!


GOPO (BLUB)
ゴ
ポ
GATSU
GATSU (SNARF)
ガツ
ガツ
BAKU (CHOMP)


!!
GABA (LUNGE)

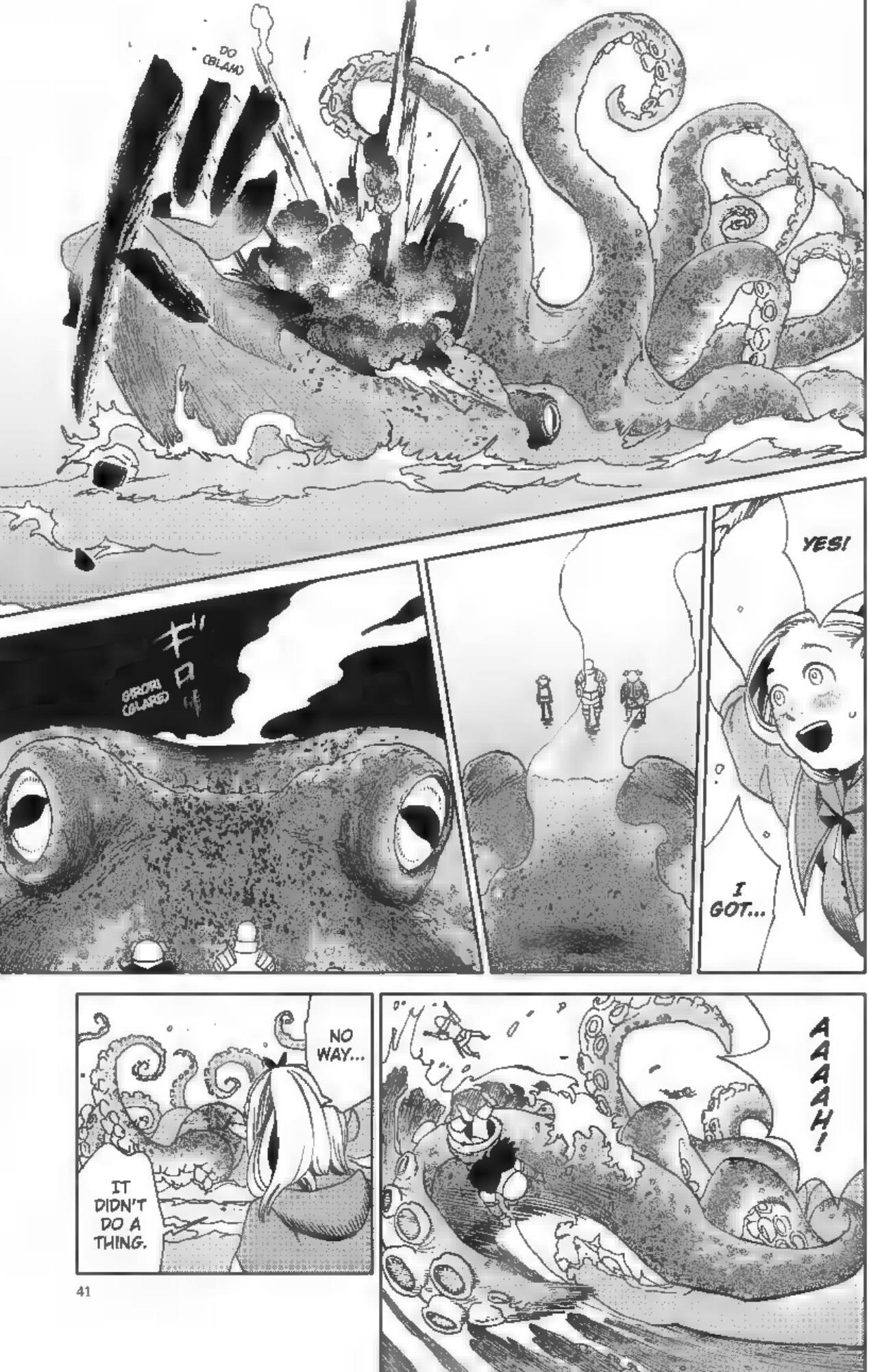
BA (LEAP)
GURA (TEETER)
?
DOBA (SPLOOSH)
WHOA!
SENSHI!
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
BASHA (SPLASH)
BITAN (SPLAT)
BOYON
BOYON (BOING)

SOMETHING'S COMING THIS WAY.
MUKURI (BOLT)
HUH?
SENSHI?
WHAT WAS THAT? THEY WENT RIGHT PAST US.
ARE YOU OKAY, SENSHI?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT!? IT'S WAY TOO BIG!
WHOA...
IT FEELS SO GROSS WHEN WATER-WALK REPELS THIS MUCH WATER!
ボルルルルル
ブオ
ブオ
WAUGH!
SFX: BORURURUN (BLUP-BLUP), BUORUN (BLORP) BUORUN
YAAGH!
DOO (BOOM)

SO COOL.
...AND THIS ONE'S SEVERAL TIMES BIGGER THAN NORMAL...!
THAT'S A PROB-LEM.
THEY'RE BIG MONSTERS ANYWAY...
A SQUID? NO, AN OCTOPUS ?
IT'S A KRAKEN!

DON'T WORRY. THIS ONE HITS HOME.
MORE MAGIC, HUH?
WE'LL DRAW IT AWAY.
MAR-CILLE, DO YOUR THING.
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
CWSH
THERE IT IS!
NOBODY STOP!
OVER HERE!!
GUN
OOOM
WHOA!


DO (BLAM)
GIRORI (GLARE)
YES!
I GOT...
NO WAY...
IT DIDN'T DO A THING.
AAAAH!

ZUBA (SLASH)
HMM.
CHIMI (TINY)
SO IT'S ALL WEAPONS CAN DO JUST TO BREAK THE SKIN.
BUON (WHIP)
BUN (PLING)
PU (PWIP)
PE (SLAP)
DOSA (WHUMP)
YARUH

MAR-CILLE.
SPELL, SOME KIND OF SPELL...
USE THAT MAGIC ONE MORE TIME.
HUH...!?
I CAN'T USE BIG MAGIC LIKE THAT TWICE IN A ROW!
THIS ONE IS FINE.
NOT THAT ONE.
ARE YOU REALLY, REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS PLAN!?
I MEAN... ...YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN A KRAKEN BEFORE, RIGHT!?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF MONSTER IT IS?
NOPE!
I DON'T KNOW KRAKENS...
...BUT I'VE DRESSED SQUID AND OCTOPUSES BEFORE!

IT'S HEADED YOUR WAY!
MARCILLE, LOOK OUT!
GLIWA (SWING)
ZA (WISH)
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
WATER-WALK!

...HIT [redacted] RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES!!
WHEN KILLING SQUID AND OCTOPUSES ...

BECHAA (SPLIT)
GUNYA (WILT)
ZAAAAA (HISSSSS)
HEEEY!
HUH? WHERE'S LAIOS?
WOW...
APPARENTLY, THIS GUY'S WHAT WAS EATING ALL THE MIDSIZE MONSTERS.
YOU'VE GOT SUCKER MARKS ON YOU.
BLECH ...
LAIOS, WHERE ARE YOU!?
HERE. OVER HERE.

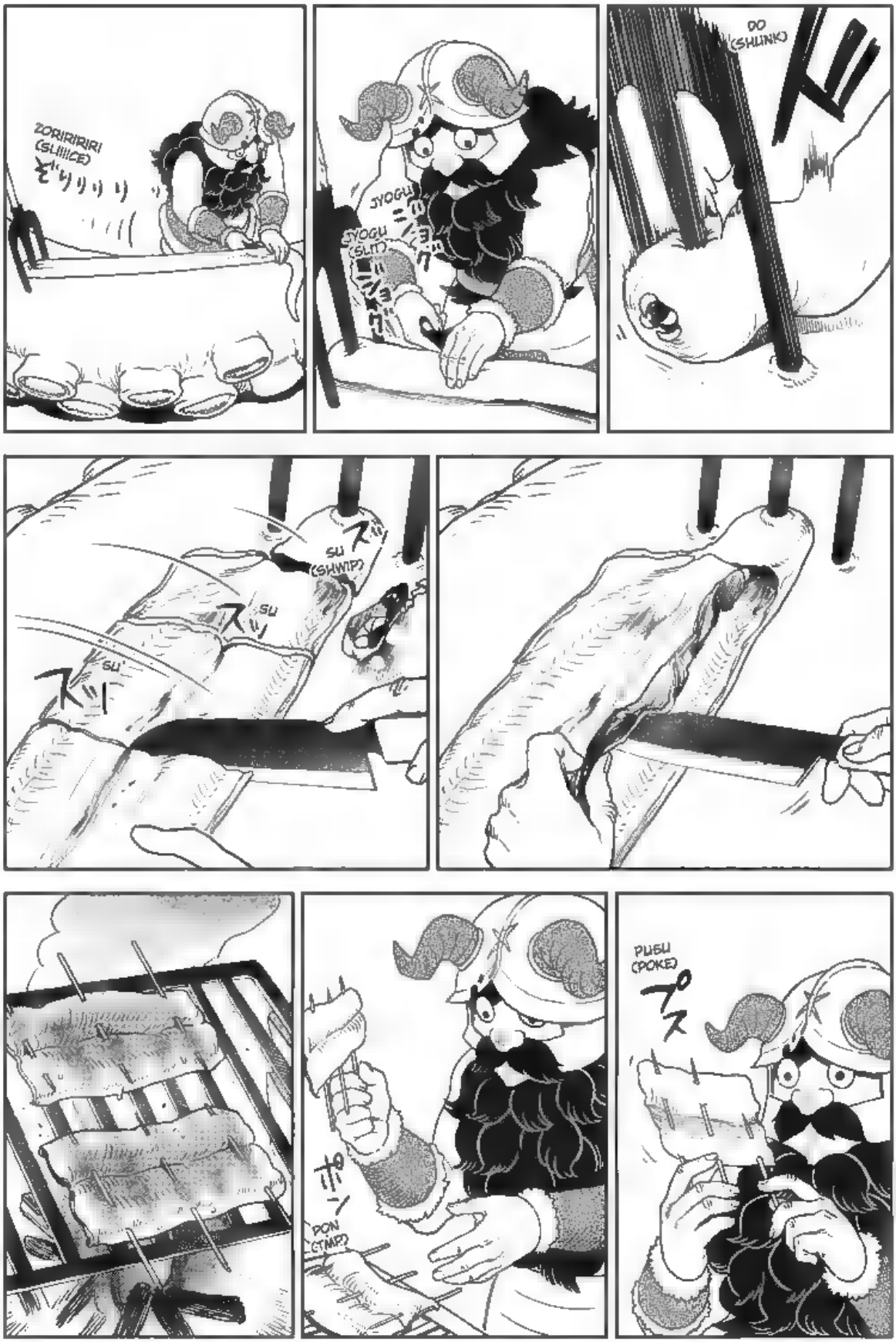
EEE!
EEE!
C'MERE A MINUTE, YOU TWO.
GO (WHUNK)
AND THEN...
BOOKS ARE FINE, BUT YOU SHOULD TRY ACTUALLY DRESSING SEAFOOD.
IF YOU GOUGE THIS SPOT ON SQUID AND OCTOPUSES, THEY DIE REAL EASY.
TORSO
HEAD
ARM
THIS IS WHERE THE INTERNAL ORGANS ARE. ON PEOPLE, IT'D BE THE TORSO.
AH, I SEE.
HM?
ISN'T THIS THE HEAD?
...HAS BONES...
IT...
THOUGHT SO. IT DOES HAVE CARTILAGE.
IF YOU'RE USING SPELLS, AIM FOR THE HEAD, NOT THE STOMACH.

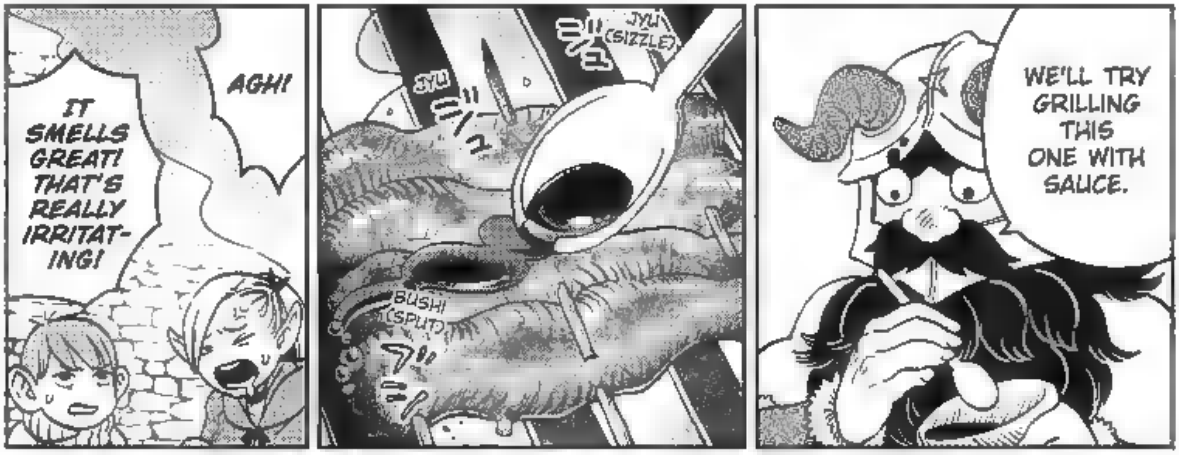
DID YOU GROW UP IN THE MOUNTAINS?
YOU'RE KIDDING!
THEY'RE INCRED-IBLY YUMMY!
HUH?
YOU'VE NEVER HAD THEM?
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THEM FOR SALE.
ARE SQUID AND OCTOPUSES GOOD TO EAT?
STEWED WITH GARLIC, SAY...
...OR DRESSED WITH VINEGAR...
...OR FRIED...
...OR STEWED WITH TOMATOES...
THEY'RE DELICIOUS WHATEVER YOU DO WITH THEM.
BOIL THEM, GRILL THEM, STEAM THEM, DRY THEM, SMOKE THEM, OR EAT THEM RAW...
...GRILLED WHOLE...
I DUG MY OWN GRAAAVE!!
THERE'S A GOOD SHOP IN THE NEXT TOWN OVER.
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE IT IS LATER.
WE CAN'T JUST TRY IT NOW?

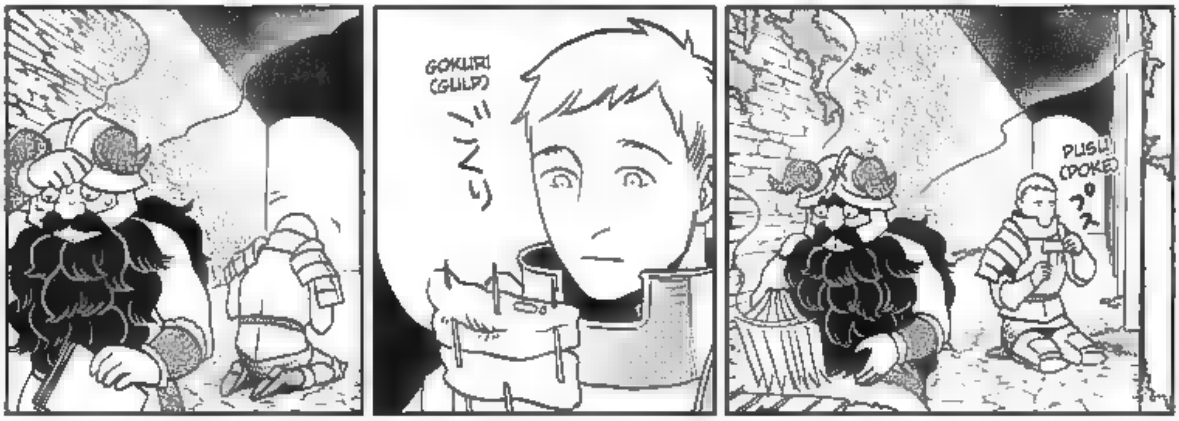
HOW DO I EAT THIS?
OH BOY, OH! BOY!
TRY IT WITH SALT FIRST.
WHOA! IT'S SO WEIRD!
GABU (CHOMP)
ガブ！
IT STINKS!
WELL, WELL.
IT'S HORRIBLY BITTER. MY MOUTH IS TINGLING.
YOU EAT THIS ■ EVERYTHING, MARCILLE?
NO! NO!!
QUIT GETTING THE WRONG IDEA!!

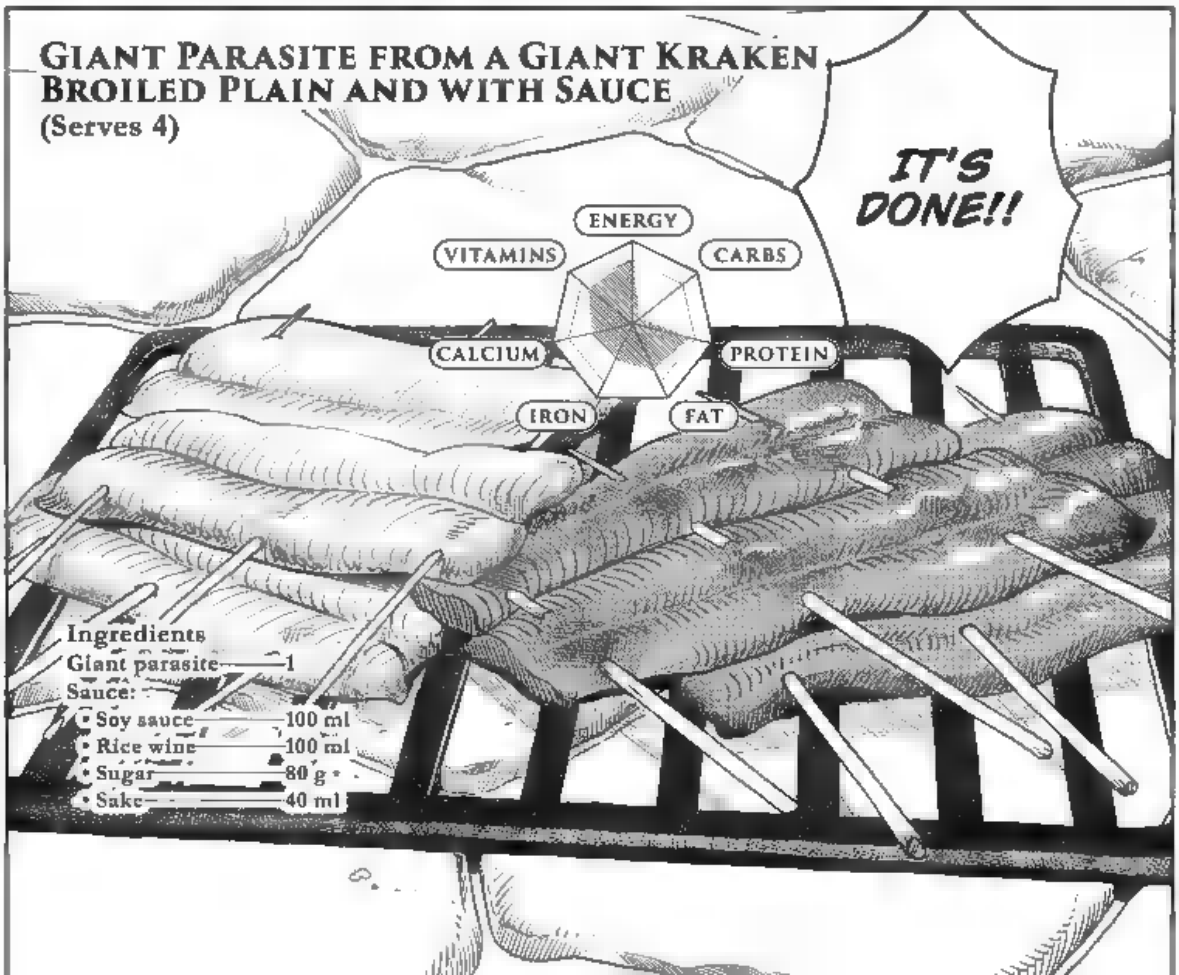
PERARI (PEEL)
MOZO (WRIGGLE)
HM?
MOZO
MIGHT'VE TAKEN IT FROM THE WRONG PLACE.
WHAT ABOUT THE STOM-ACH?
SHAAAA (HISSSS)
IT'S A PARASITE.
WHOOOA!!
KUTTARI (LIMP)
BAN (WHUNK)

GET RID OF IT! HURRY!
EW. THAT'S DISGUST-ING!
SFX: ZOOOO (SHIVER)
WHAT ARE YOU FUSSING FOR?
ALL LIVING THINGS HAVE PARASITES.
THIS IS FAN-TASTIC!
SO BIG MONSTERS HAVE BIG PARASITES TOO!
...IF WE COOKED THIS, WE COULD EAT IT TOO.
THEN...
MOST OF THEM GET MIXED INTO FOOD TOO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY THAT!
NO!!
N!
O!
THAT'S ONE WAY TO THINK ABOUT IT, YES.
NO!!


ZORIRIRIRI
(SLIIIICE)
JYOGU
JYOGU
(SLIT)
DO
(SHUNK)
SU
(SHWIP)
SU
SU
DON
(TMP)
PUSU
(POKE)


AGH!
IT SMELLS GREAT! THAT'S REALLY IRRITAT-ING!
JYU (SIZZLE)
JYU
BUSHI (SPUT)
WE'LL TRY GRILLING THIS ONE WITH SAUCE.


GOKURI (GULP)
PUSU (POKE)

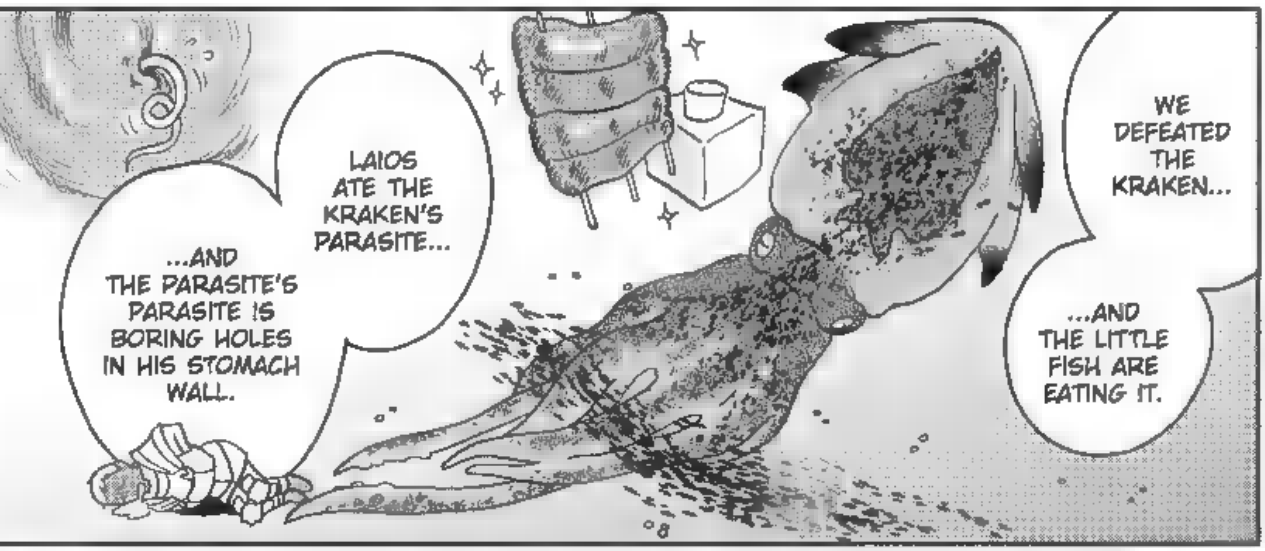

GIANT PARASITE FROM A GIANT KRAKEN
BROILED PLAIN AND WITH SAUCE
(Serves 4)
IT'S DONE!!
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
Ingredients
Giant parasite——1
Sauce:
• Soy sauce——100 ml
• Rice wine——100 ml
• Sugar——80 g
• Sake——40 ml

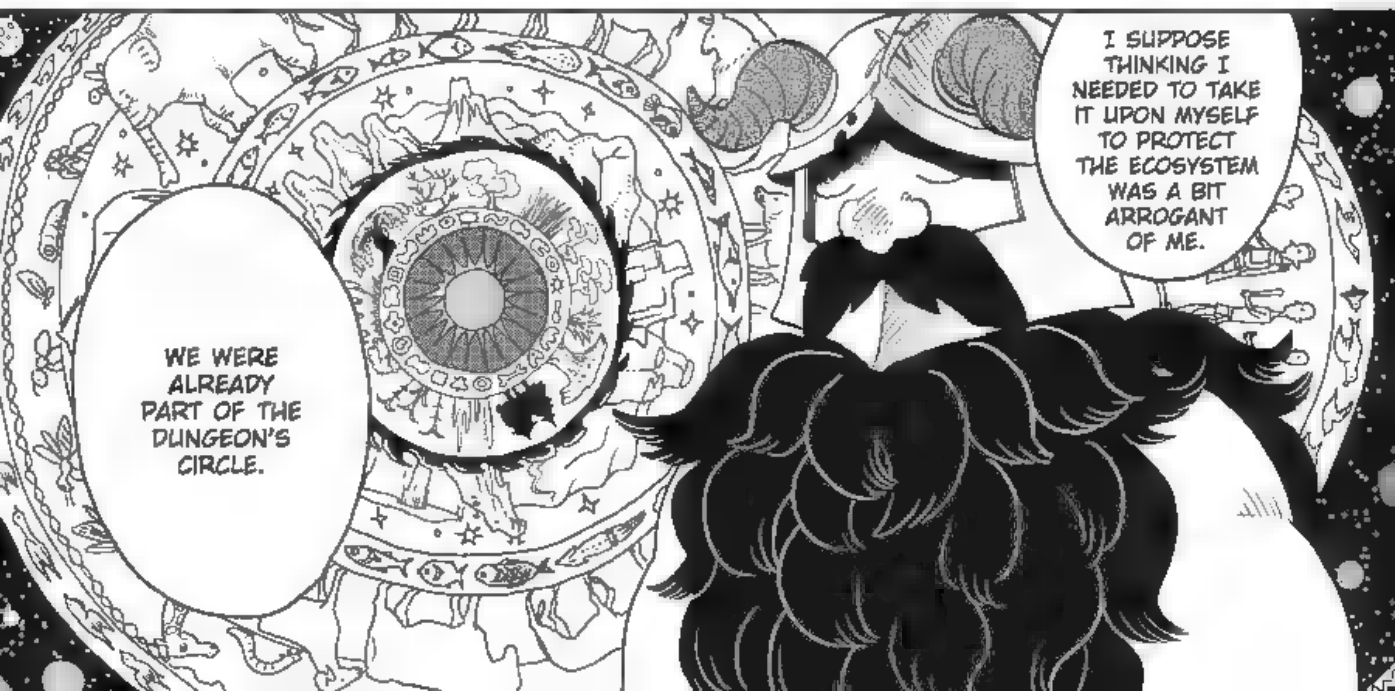
PAKU (MUNCH)
FWOO...
FWOO...
WHAT IS THIS? IT'S INCREDIBLY LIGHT AND SOFT. REALLY GOOD!
IT'S A LITTLE SLIMY, BUT IT'S NICE AND MEATY.
YUM!!
NOT BAD.
IT...IT'S DELI-CIOUS...
HAGU (CHOMP)
CHIMI (NIBBLE)

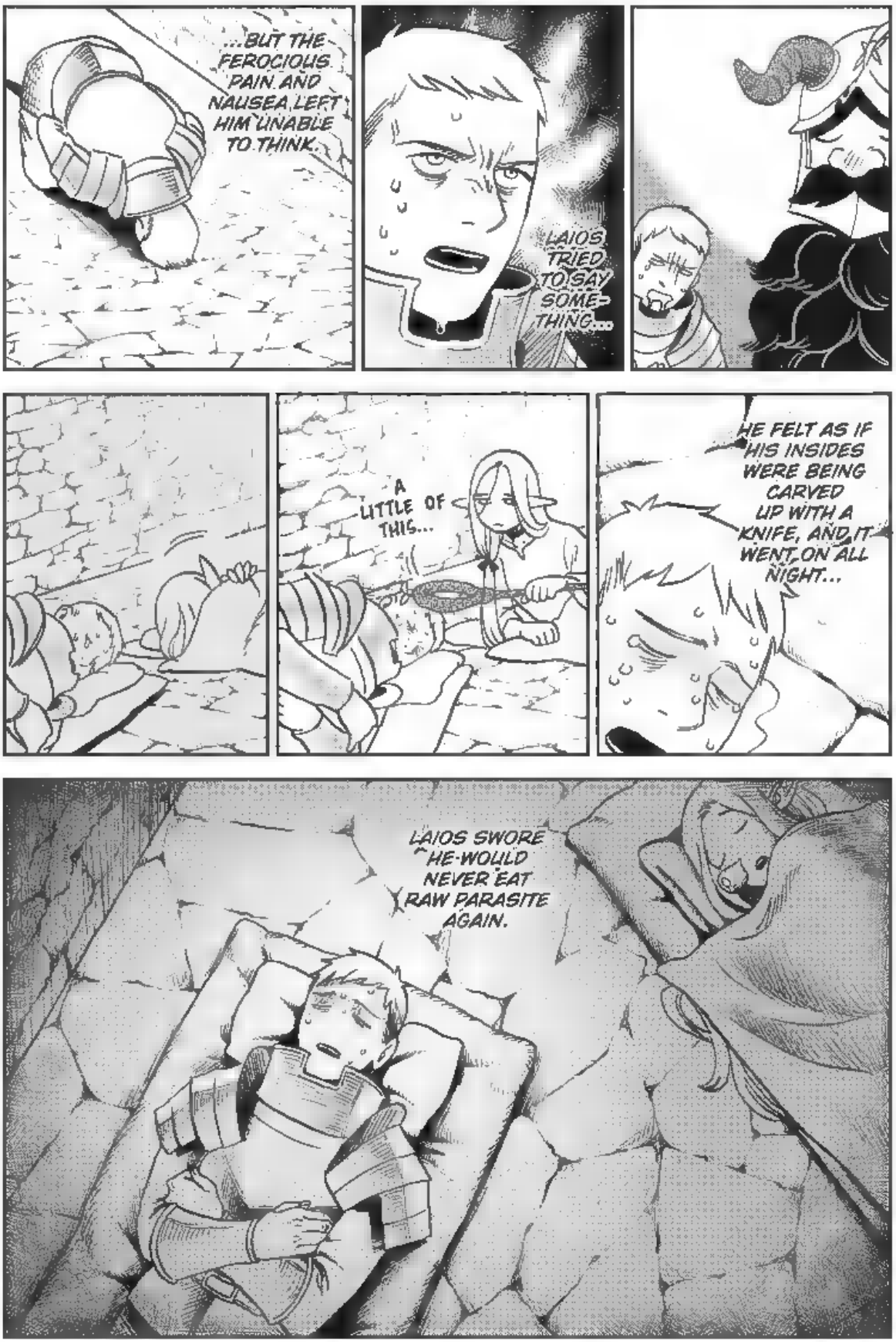
...TRUE. PROBABLY.
もぐ
MOGU CHUNCHO
THAT'S NOT...
IT MIGHT BE EVEN BETTER THAN SQUID OR OCTOPUS.
IT'S GOOD IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM NORMAL FISH.
IT'S FINE. IT'S ALREADY DEAD.
JUST A LITTLE.
WAIT, NO! YOU ATE IT RAW!?
I TRIED A LITTLE BIT RAW, AND IT HAD A MILD FLAVOR.
I BET THIS WOULD BE GOOD ANY WAY YOU COOKED IT TOO.
NOW THE MIDSIZE-MONSTER POPULATIONS SHOULD RECOVER.
THE FISH ARE EATING THE KRAKEN.
HEY.

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU OKAY!?
THAT'S...
OW!
OW, OW, OW, OW!
...HM?
MY STOMACH FEELS SORT OF...
THEY DON'T FEED OFF OF HUMANS, BUT THEY DO POKE HOLES IN YOUR STOMACH, SO IT HURTS REAL BAD.
WELL... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE PARASITE TO DIE.
1cm
LIKE THIS.
IT'S THE SORT YOU FIND IN NORMAL FISH. I SAW ONE WHEN I WAS CUTTING IT UP.
NO, BUT...
I THOUGHT SO.
LAIOS, YOU CAUGHT A PARASITE FROM THAT GIANT PARASITE.
!?
WHY DON'T WE CAMP HERE FOR TODAY?
SURE.
OOG...
BLRGH ...
MAYBE HIT HIM WITH RECOVERY MAGIC EVERY SO OFTEN.
I COULD DO THAT.
WON'T I DIE FIRST?

THE FISH-MEN ATE THE BLADE FISH...
STILL, I SEE NOW...
...AND THE KRAKEN ATE THE FISH-MEN.


LAIOS ATE THE KRAKEN'S PARASITE...
WE DEFEATED THE KRAKEN...
...AND THE PARASITE'S PARASITE IS BORING HOLES IN HIS STOMACH WALL.
...AND THE LITTLE FISH ARE EATING IT.

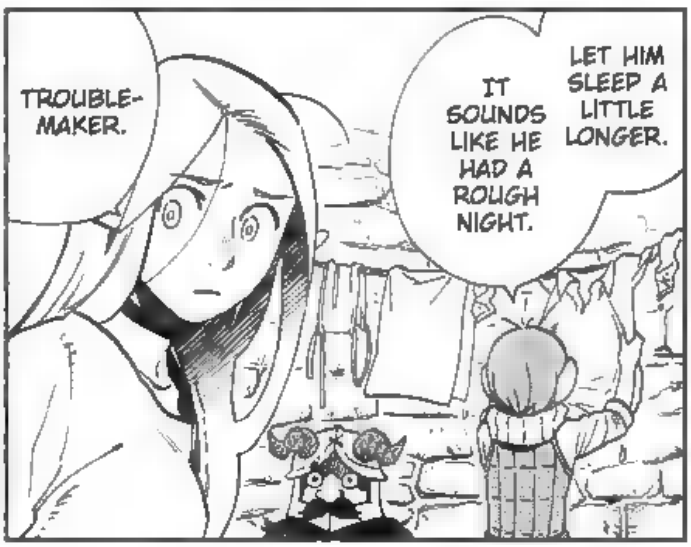

I SUPPOSE THINKING I NEEDED TO TAKE IT UPON MYSELF TO PROTECT THE ECOSYSTEM WAS A BIT ARROGANT OF ME.
WE WERE ALREADY PART OF THE DUNGEON'S CIRCLE.


...BUT THE FEROCIOUS PAIN AND NAUSEA LEFT HIM UNABLE TO THINK.
LAIOS TRIED TO SAY SOME-THING...
A LITTLE OF THIS...
HE FELT AS IF HIS INSIDES WERE BEING CARVED UP WITH A KNIFE, AND IT WENT ON ALL NIGHT...
LAIOS SWORE HE WOULD NEVER EAT RAW PARASITE AGAIN.

Chapter 17

I CAN'T...
...HEAR HIS HEART...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LISTENING THROUGH HIS ARMOR!

AGH!!
I OVER-SLEPT!


TROUBLE-MAKER.
IT SOUNDS LIKE HE HAD A ROUGH NIGHT.
LET HIM SLEEP A LITTLE LONGER.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE FOOD POI-SONING'S CALMED DOWN.
HE JUST GOT TO SLEEP. FINALLY.
OH.

DOES IT ALREADY KNOW HOW MANY MONSTERS INTRUDERS WILL DEFEAT?
EVEN WHEN WE KILL MONSTERS, IT JUST KEEPS THE SYSTEM BALANCED...?
STILL, THIS DUN-GEON...
THAT SAID, IF WE LEAVE IT ALONE, MONSTERS FLOOD OUT INTO THE TOWN...
...AND THE BELEAGUERED TOWN RECRUITS ADVENTURERS TO PUSH BACK THE MONSTERS.
HM. YES. VERY CLEVER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I STUDIED IT AT SCHOOL A LONG TIME AGO.
IT'S HARD.
.....
HUH?
ABOUT MAKING DUNGEONS, OF COURSE.

17. Raspberries

ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
S-SAY...
ISN'T THAT...?

HEH!
THEY SAY SHE WAS MADE THE TEACHER'S ASSISTANT ON HER VERY FIRST DAY...
...AND THAT THEY'VE ALREADY DECIDED SHE'LL BE A COURT MAGICIAN.
HISO (WHISPER)
ひそ
ひそ
YOU MEAN MISS MARCILLE FROM THE RESEARCH COURSE?
SHE'S THE MOST TALENTED GIRL IN THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL.

O-OF COURSE!
DO GO EASY ON ME, WON'T YOU?
I PESTERED THE TEACHER TO LET ME TAKE THIS CLASS WITH YOU TODAY.

THEY LET ME BE AN ASSISTANT ON MY FIFTH DAY AT SCHOOL...
...AND MY PARENTS WERE COURT MAGICIANS. THAT'S ALL.

TAKE WOODEN DISCS WITH HOLES IN THE CENTERS...
...AND STACK THEM IN THE VESSEL, ALTERNATING THEM WITH LAYERS OF SOIL.
TODAY WE'LL BE DOING A SPIRIT PROPAGATION EXPERIMENT.
EACH OF YOU TAKE A BEAKER AND GO OUTSIDE.
SFX: NYU (SQUEEZE)
RELEASE SPIRITS INTO IT.
WHEEE!
CAST A BARRIER, THEN FILL THE AREA INSIDE WITH MANA.
TON (TAP)
TON
KEEPING SPIRITS IS PRACTICALLY THE FOUNDATION OF SUMMONING MAGIC.
BECAUSE THESE STRUCTURES ARE SIMILAR TO THE MONSTER-HAUNTED DUNGEON, THEY'RE ALSO CALLED DUNGEONIUMS.
THE MICROSCOPIC SPIRITS LIVE ON THE MANA THAT'S INSIDE THE VESSEL.
IF THE MANA IS TOO CONCENTRATED OR TOO WEAK, THEY'LL DIE.

OOH!
IF YOU'RE DONE, TAKE YOUR BEAKERS TO THE DARK-ROOM.
THEN LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK.
I'M RESEARCH-ING HOW TO BUILD A SAFE DUNGEON.
BUT WHY SUMMONING MAGIC?
IT'S OUTSIDE YOUR SPECIALTY. ISN'T IT?
WOW!
MISS MARCILLE, YOUR BARRIER'S SO PRETTY!
WAS THIS REALLY YOUR FIRST TIME?
H-HUH...
THAT'S REALLY... WOW.
...I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL FOR EVERY-ONE.
...AND RAISE ONLY USEFUL MON-STERS ...
BUT IF WE COULD MAKE A SAFE DUN-GEON...
RIGHT NOW...
...MAN-DRAKES AND OTHER MAGIC MATERIALS...
...ARE HAR-VESTED UNDER DAN-GEROUS CONDI-TIONS.

CAREFUL.
FUWA (LIFT)
DON (WHUMP)
OH!
LET US SEE! LET US SEE!
MISS MARCILLE, YOUR BARRIER!
THERE ARE IMPURITIES IN HER SOIL.
THE BARRIER IS FULL OF HOLES, AND THE MANA IS WEAKENING.
THE SPIRITS INSIDE THAT WON'T SURVIVE LONG...
PEKO (BOW)
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TH-THANK YOU.
SHE SKIPS CLASS A LOT TOO, SO SHE'S BEHIND.
HM...
YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR CLOTHES DIRTY, DID YOU?
THAT GIRL'S ALWAYS ALL MUDDY.

MINE SURVIVED SOMEHOW.
MINE ALL DIED!

ONCE YOU'VE RETRIEVED YOUR BEAKERS ...
...LET'S SEE HOW MANY SPIRITS ARE LEFT.

THAT'S MOLD.
A NEW TYPE OF SPIRIT...!

EEEK!
THE CONDITION'S JUST ABOUT THE SAME.
WELL DONE.

=SUU= (SHUF)
スウ!
THE MORE SPIRITS THERE ARE, THE BIGGER THE FLAME.

DOOO (DOOOM)
ド!!
THAT'S QUITE THE INCREASE.
WHAT DO I DO...?

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

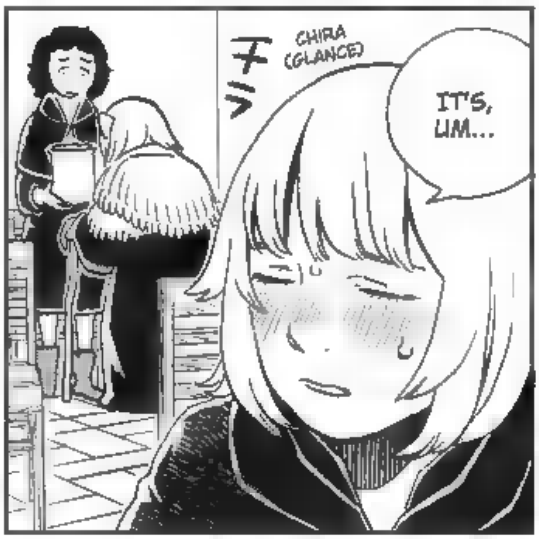
GOOOOO (WOOOSH)
M-MY BEA-KER...

S-SAY...
THAT BEAKER...
HOW ON EARTH DID YOU DO IT!?

SOME-WHERE WITH LOTS OF SPIRITS?
WHERE IS IT?

I-I'M SORRY.
...AND I THOUGHT IF I USED IT AS A MODEL, I MIGHT GET A GOOD RESULT.
THERE'S A PLACE THAT ALWAYS HAS LOTS OF SPIRITS...

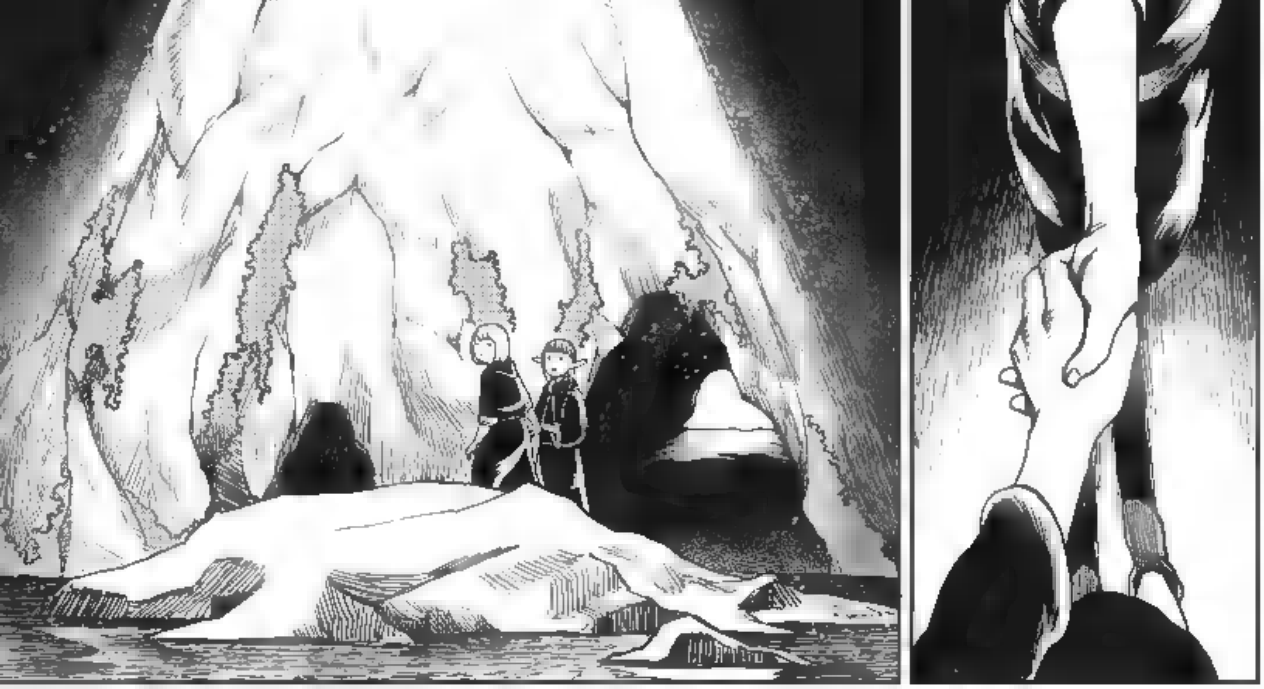
IT'S THE REAL DUNGEON.

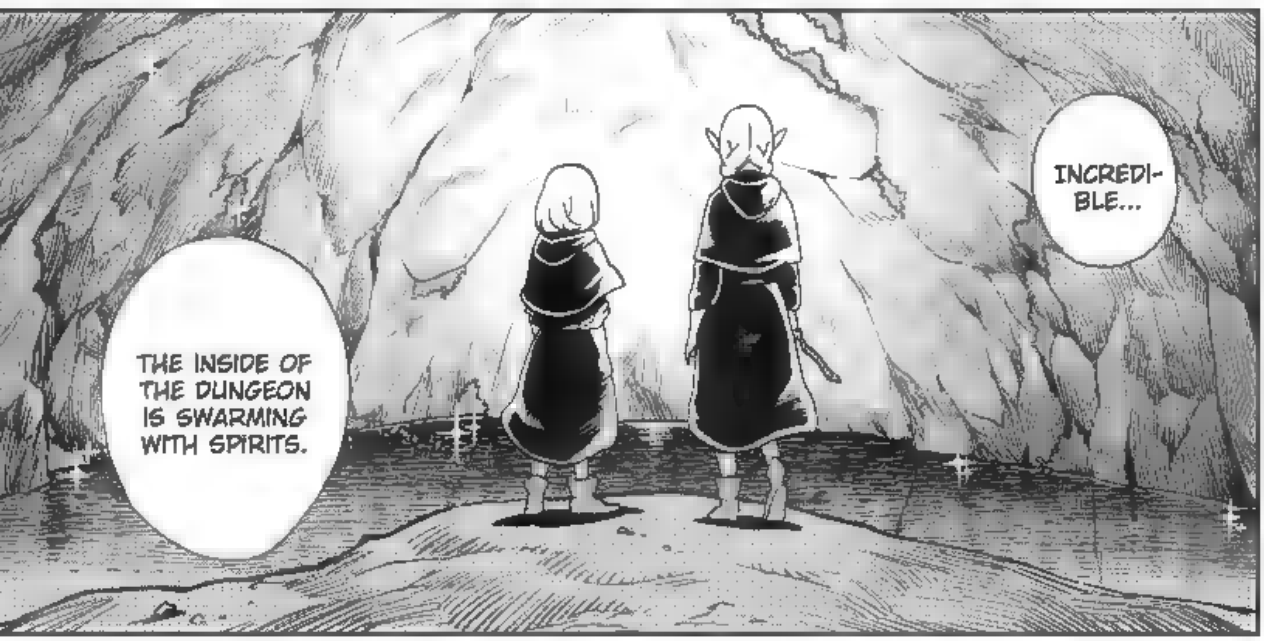

チラ
CHIRA (GLANCE)
IT'S, UM...

THERE'S A SECRET PASSAGE HERE...?
WE GET OUT THROUGH HERE.
I MEAN, UM...
NO WONDER YOU'RE FALLING BEHIND.
DO YOU DO THIS OFTEN?
UH-HUH.

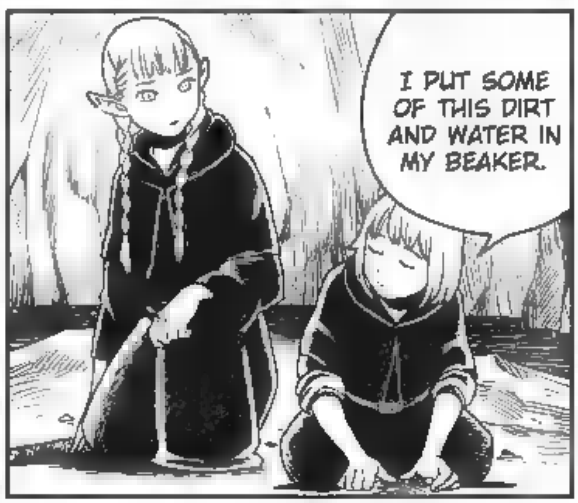
TA-DAAA.
YAUGH!
GRASS-HOPPER!!
BA (POUNCE)
PAKU (MUNCH)
YAUGH!
BA
RASP-BERRIES !!
TH-THEY'RE NOT WEIRD...
AND GRASS-HOPPERS AND RASP-BERRIES AREN'T POISONOUS.
DON'T EAT WEIRD THINGS! DON'T EVEN TOUCH THEM!
WHAT IF THEY'RE POISON-OUS!?

IT REALLY IS THE DUNGEON... I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
WAIT! THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
HYOI (CLICK)
UGH... THE MANA IS CONGESTED, AND THE AIR IS STALE.
IT'S A NATURAL CAVE, SEE?
IT'S FINE. I COME HERE A LOT.
IT'S SAFE IF YOU STAY ON DRY GROUND.




INCREDI-
BLE...
THE INSIDE OF THE DUNGEON IS SWARMING WITH SPIRITS.

I SEE...


I PUT SOME OF THIS DIRT AND WATER IN MY BEAKER.

SO SHE REALLY IS JUST SKIP-PING.
MM...
WRITE LETTERS.
READ BOOKS.
WHAT DO YOU DO WAY OUT HERE?
WAIT...
EITHER WAY, IT DOESN'T LOOK DANGEROUS HERE.
...AND PLANTED MANDRAKES...
...WE COULD SAFELY HARNESS THE DUNGEON'S MANA.
...LIKE THIS!...
IF WE MADE THIS PLACE...

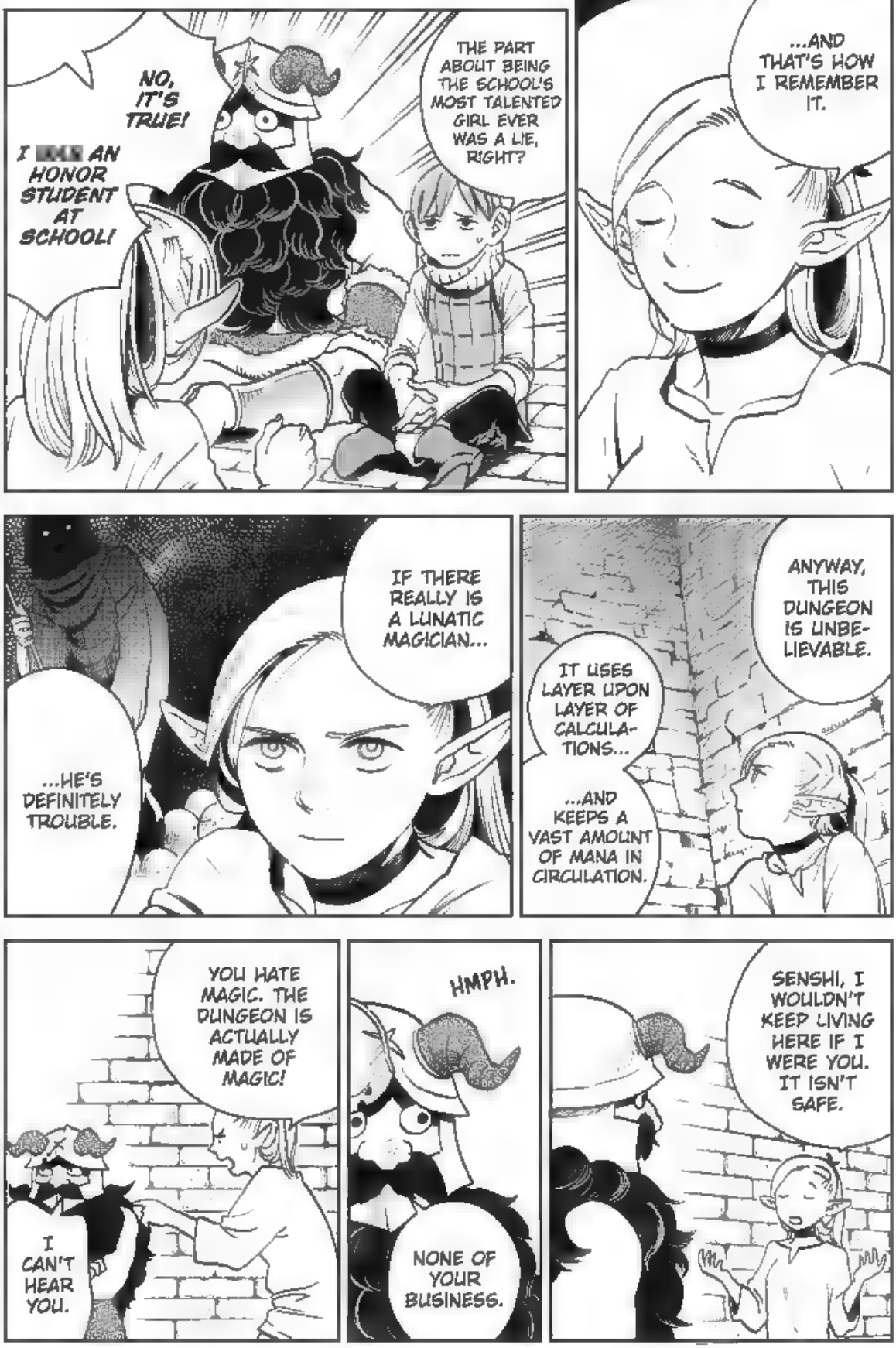
IT'S RIGHT NEAR THE WATER TOO.
YES! THAT WOULD WORK!
THEY SHOULD GROW WELL IN A PLACE THAT'S THIS FULL OF MANA.
GUNYAA (WARP)
...HM?
EEEEK!

A...A SLIME!
BA (GRAB)
N-NO!!
DWAH!
I'LL JUST...
...BURN ALL THE MON-STERS!
GET BACK! IT'S DANGER-OUS!
EH?
WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?
THEY WON'T COME INTO THE SUNLIGHT...

BATS...?
WITHOUT THEM, THE DUNGEON WOULD DIE.
THE SLIMES BREAK DOWN THE BAT GUANO AND TURN IT INTO MANA.
MICCHIRI (PACKED)
みっちり!!

YUMMY...
MOGU CRUNCH
HERE.
I CAN'T MAKE A DUNGEON WITHOUT KNOWING THINGS LIKE THAT...
WHAT SORT OF ANIMALS EAT THEM?
WHAT TIME OF YEAR DO.THESE RASPBERRIES GROW?
IF THEY'RE THIS GOOD, OTHER ANIMALS PROBABLY EAT THEM.
I WONDER WHAT THOSE BATS EAT.
I HAVEN'T LEARNED ENOUGH...

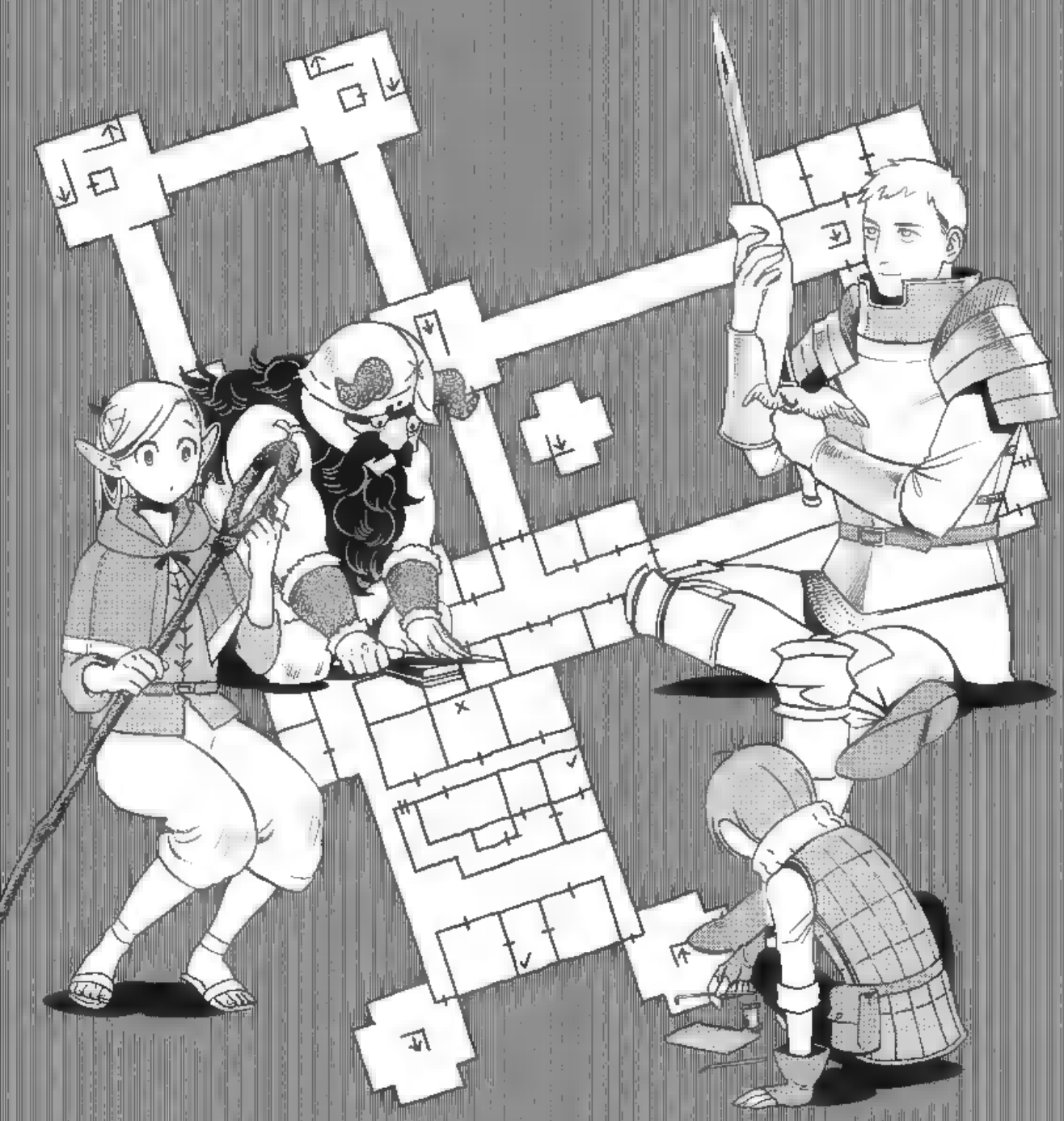
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME HERE.
I THOUGHT ALL I HAD TO DO TO IMPROVE WAS STUDY MAGIC, BUT APPARENTLY, THAT ISN'T TRUE.
I'M FALIN.
WHO ARE YOU?
OH!
BY THE WAY, UM...
I'M MARCILLE.
I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU, FALIN.

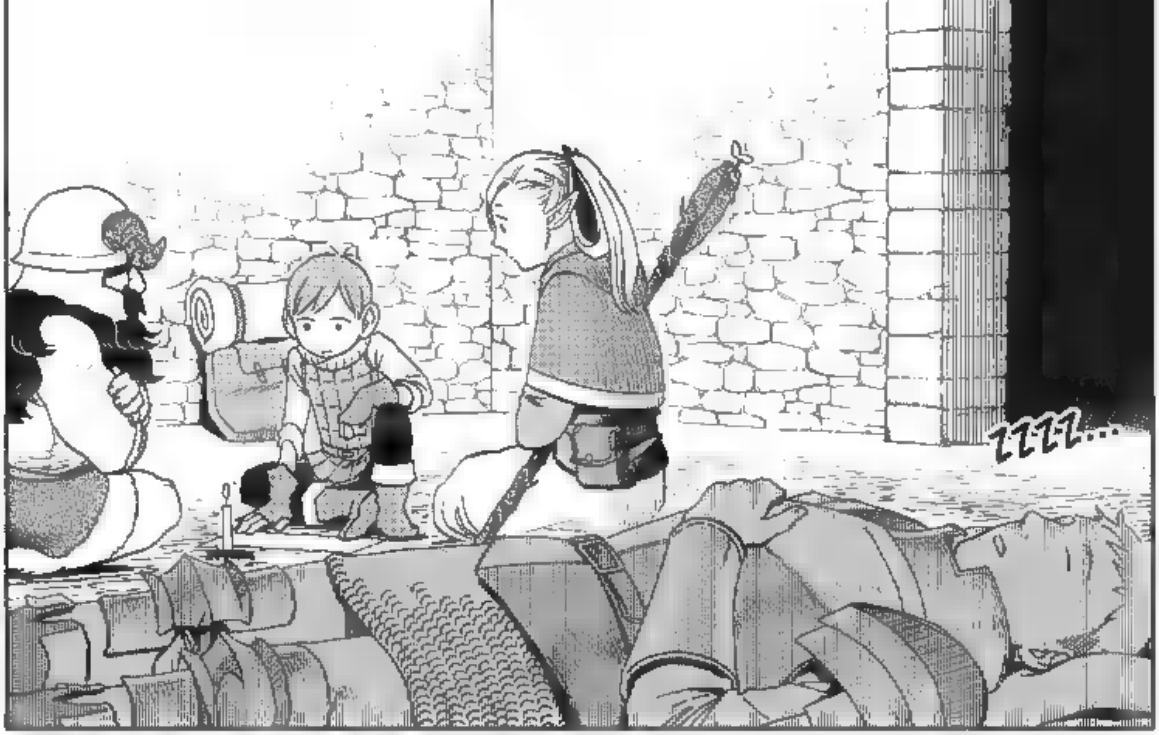

NO, IT'S TRUE!
I [redacted] AN HONOR STUDENT AT SCHOOL!
THE PART ABOUT BEING THE SCHOOL'S MOST TALENTED GIRL EVER WAS A LIE, RIGHT?
...AND THAT'S HOW I REMEMBER IT.
IF THERE REALLY IS A LUNATIC MAGICIAN...
...HE'S DEFINITELY TROUBLE.
ANYWAY, THIS DUNGEON IS UNBELIEVABLE.
IT USES LAYER UPON LAYER OF CALCULATIONS...
...AND KEEPS A VAST AMOUNT OF MANA IN CIRCULATION.
YOU HATE MAGIC. THE DUNGEON IS ACTUALLY MADE OF MAGIC!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
HMPH.
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
SENSHI, I WOULDN'T KEEP LIVING HERE IF I WERE YOU. IT ISN'T SAFE.

WHEN MY LITTLE SISTER STARTED MAGIC SCHOOL...
...AT FIRST HER LETTERS WERE ALWAYS VERY ANXIOUS.
BUT THEN SHE SAID SHE'D MADE A FRIEND.
AFTER THAT, IT SOUNDED LIKE SHE WAS HAVING FUN EVERY DAY.
...OH. I SEE.
SHE MEANT YOU, HM?
SHE ALWAYS TOLD ME YOU WERE AN AMAZING PERSON.
HUH?

HE DOES A GREAT DOG IMPRESSION.
NYAR! GRRND
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT HIM?
SHE DID, HUH?
...SHE BRAGGED ABOUT YOU TOO, LAIOS.
SHE SAID SHE RESPECTED YOU.
...I GUESS THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE RUNNING ON ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.
WELL...
COME ON, COME ON! IF YOU'RE AWAKE, GET UP ALREADY!
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND RESCUE FALIN!

18. Grilled Meat




ZZZZ...

I DOUBT THE DRAGON'S JUST SITTING THERE...
...BUT THEY DON'T MOVE AROUND ALL THAT MUCH.

THIS IS WHERE THE ORCS SAID THEY SAW THE RED DRAGON.
WE SHOULD BE THERE IN TWO DAYS.

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE HERE.

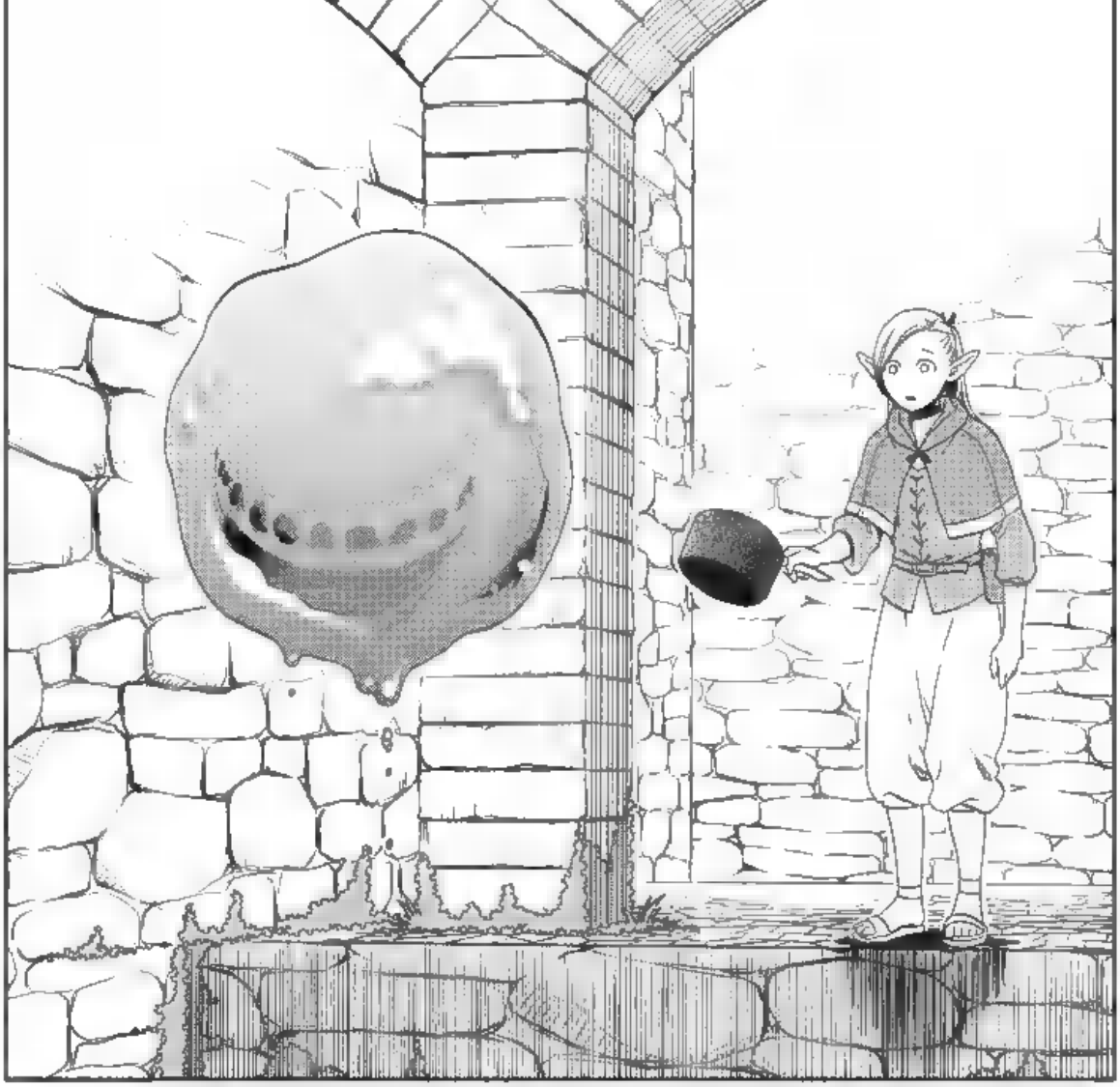
WHEN THIS CANDLE'S GONE, WAKE LAIOS UP.
TAKE CARE OF ANY BUSINESS NOW.
IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE OUR NEXT BREAK.

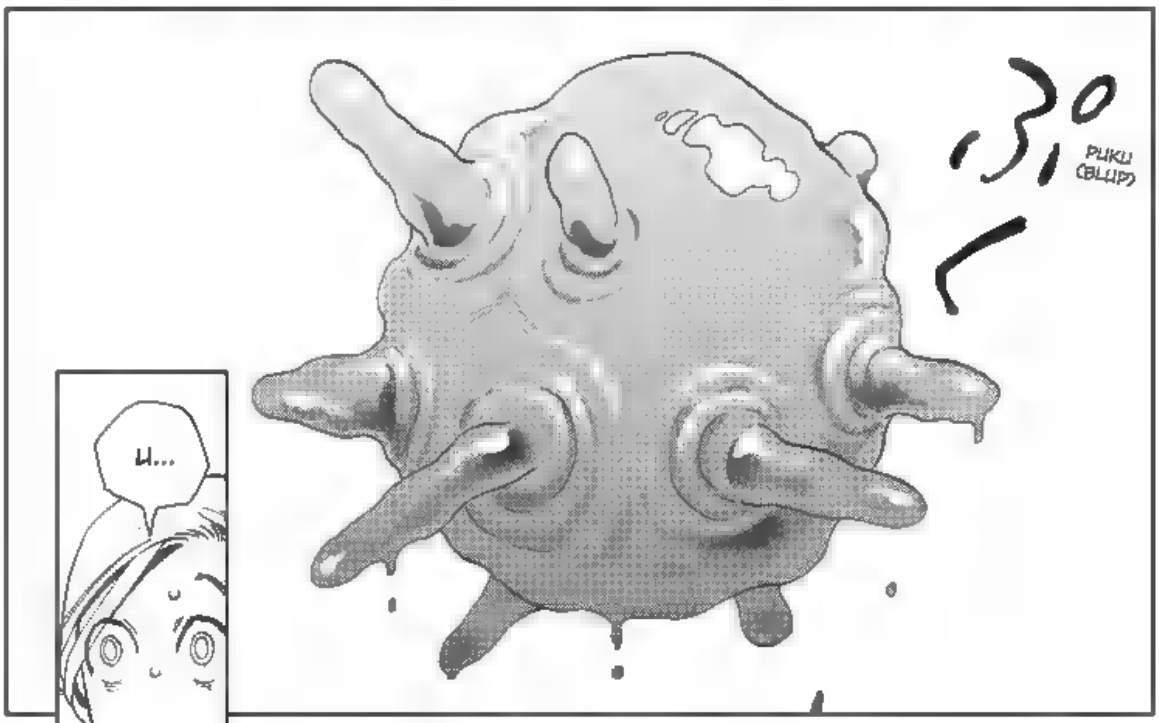
I WANT TO CAMP A MAXIMUM OF TWO MORE TIMES.
ONCE HALFWAY THERE, AND ONCE RIGHT BEFORE THE DRAGON.

...MAKE IT QUICK.
WHERE?
HERE, IN THE CORNER.
I WANT TO TAKE A SPONGE BATH.
THERE WE GO.
FUTSU (BUBBLE)
FUTSU
GARI (SCRITCH)
GARI
IT'S FINE. I'M KEEPING MY CLOTHES ON. JUST STAY HERE.
IT'S DANGEROUS OUT THERE.
OH, I SEE.
OKAY, WE'LL BE OUTSIDE.
HUH?

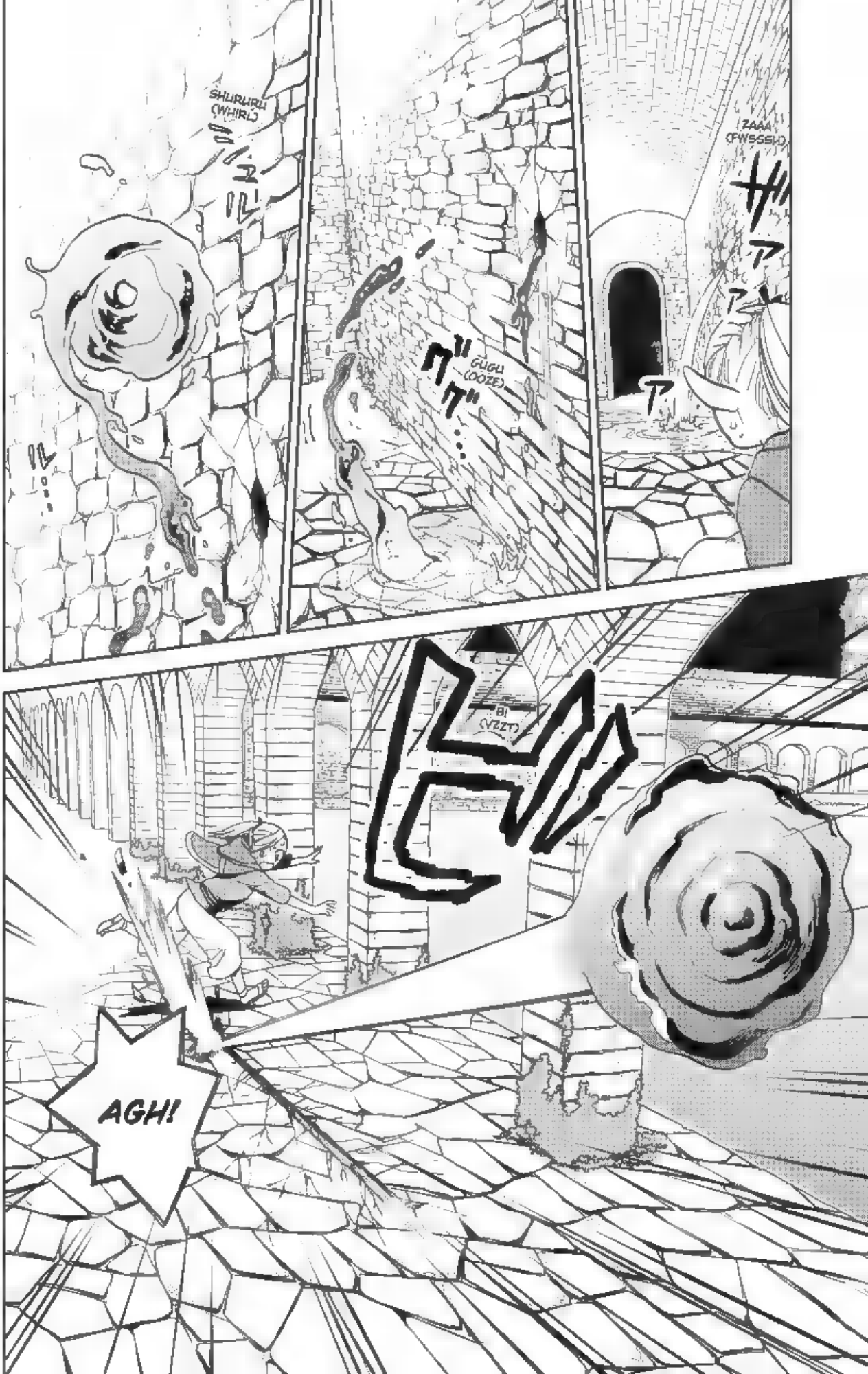
IT WAS EASIER BEFORE, WHEN OUR GENDER RATIO WAS EQUAL.
ORC
NO, THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM, IS IT?
SHOULD I HAVE STUDIED ILLUSION MAGIC OR SOMETHING?
もそ
MOSO (SHUF)
HMM ...
THEY'RE BEING EXTRA-CAREFUL AROUND ME.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE FALIN IS.
NO!
DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE NOW?
...WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A LIVING TOO, Y'KNOW.
SORRY, BUT...
WE'RE OUT.
BIKU (FLINCH)
BASHAN (SPLASH)
I THOUGHT WE WERE A TEAM!
JUST REMEM-BERING MAKES ME MAD.
GASSHI (SCRUB)
GASSHI

ARE YOU READY, MARCILLE?
MM-HM.
PISHA (SMACK)
LAIOS, WAKE UP.
PISHA
UNGH...
WE'RE HEADING OUT.
I BOILED IT TOO LONG.
OOPS.
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO (BLUB)
PASHA (SPLISH)
MO (BLOOP)



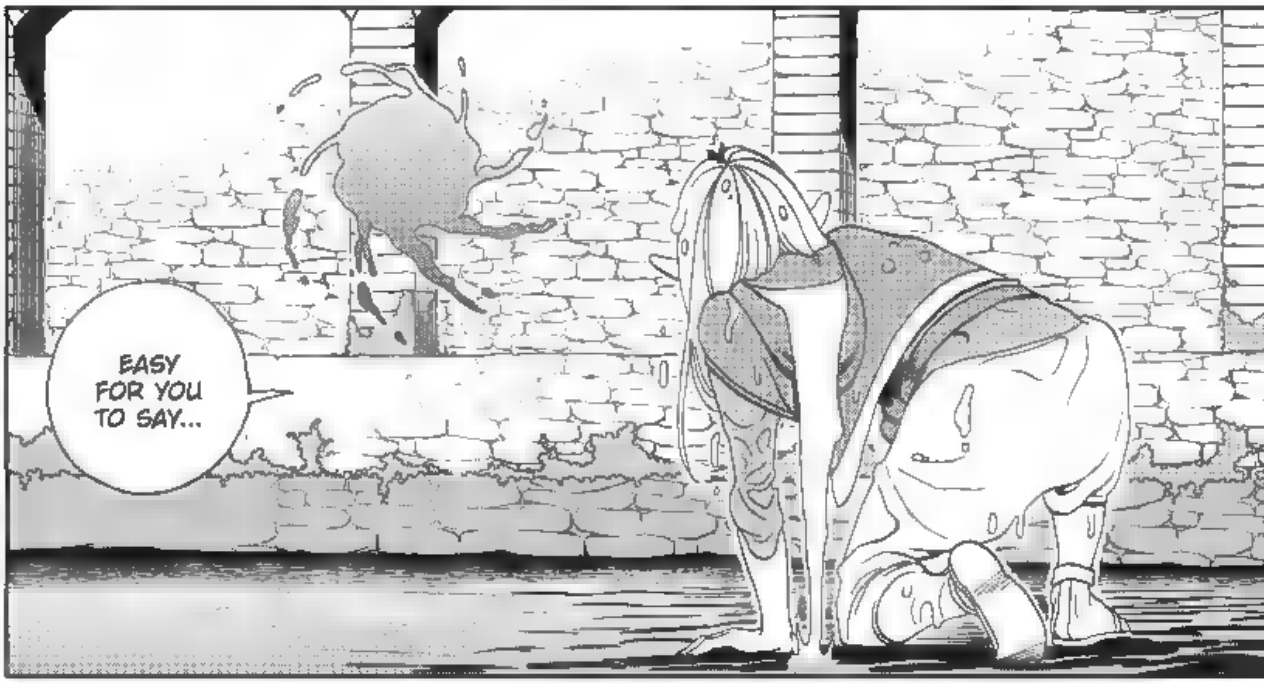

PUKU (BLUP)
U...

BI (VZZT)
UNDINE!
MY STAFF!
GORO
GORO (ROLL)
ゴロゴロ
HUH!?
WHAT'S GOING —?


SHURURU (WHIRL)
ZAAA (FWSSSH)
GUGU (OOZE)
BI (VZZT)
AGH!

RGH!
I CAN'T GET...
ARGH. WATER-WALK ISN'T...
ZABAA (SPLOOSH)
BWAH!
SHUUUU
SHUURURU

MAR-CILLE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT ON YOUR OWN!
SHOULD I START ONE?
FIRE...
WE NEED FIRE.
WEAPONS WON'T WORK.
THE WATER'S MOVING.


EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...

PLEASE LET THIS HIT IT.

CHUN
(ZZZIP)

CHAPON
(SPLISH)
!
BA
(TURN)

MAR-CILLE!
QUIT SPACING OUT!
I...
I KNOW.
DON'T COME NEAR THE WATER.
TA (TUP)
TA
WATER-WALK IS WEARING O—
GHUN (ZZZIP)

SHURU (WHIRL)
SHURU
SHURU
NO! DON'T STOP!
AH!
HAH ...
MAR-CILLE!
GHK!
CHAPU (SPLISH)
TOPU (SPLASH)
TOPON (SPLOOSH)
DO (BLAM)
DID SH■ GET IT!?
MARCILLE, RUN!
NO. IT ESCAPED INTO THE WATER.

DOO
DOON
WHERE IS IT!?
DON (BOOM)
WHERE?
YORO (TOTTER)
I CAN'T GET AWAY ON THIS LEG.
ZAAAA (FSHHH)
BO (BOOMF)
BI (VZZT)
AH!

PETAN (SLUMP)
HE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME.
AAAAH, I CAN'T WATCH! SHE'S SO SLOW!
FWOO! FWOO! FWOO!
HOLD ON! I'LL GET A FIRE GOING!
MY MANA'S ALMOST GONE.
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING WITH THIS NEXT ATTACK.
HFF!
HFF!
OH!
LOOK CLOSELY...
WHERE IS IT HIDING!?
SOMETHING... SOME SORT OF CHANGE...
SU (FFT)

IT HAS MY BLOOD IN IT, SO THE COLOR'S DIFFERENT!
THERE ...!
MARCILLE!

GA (WHUMP)

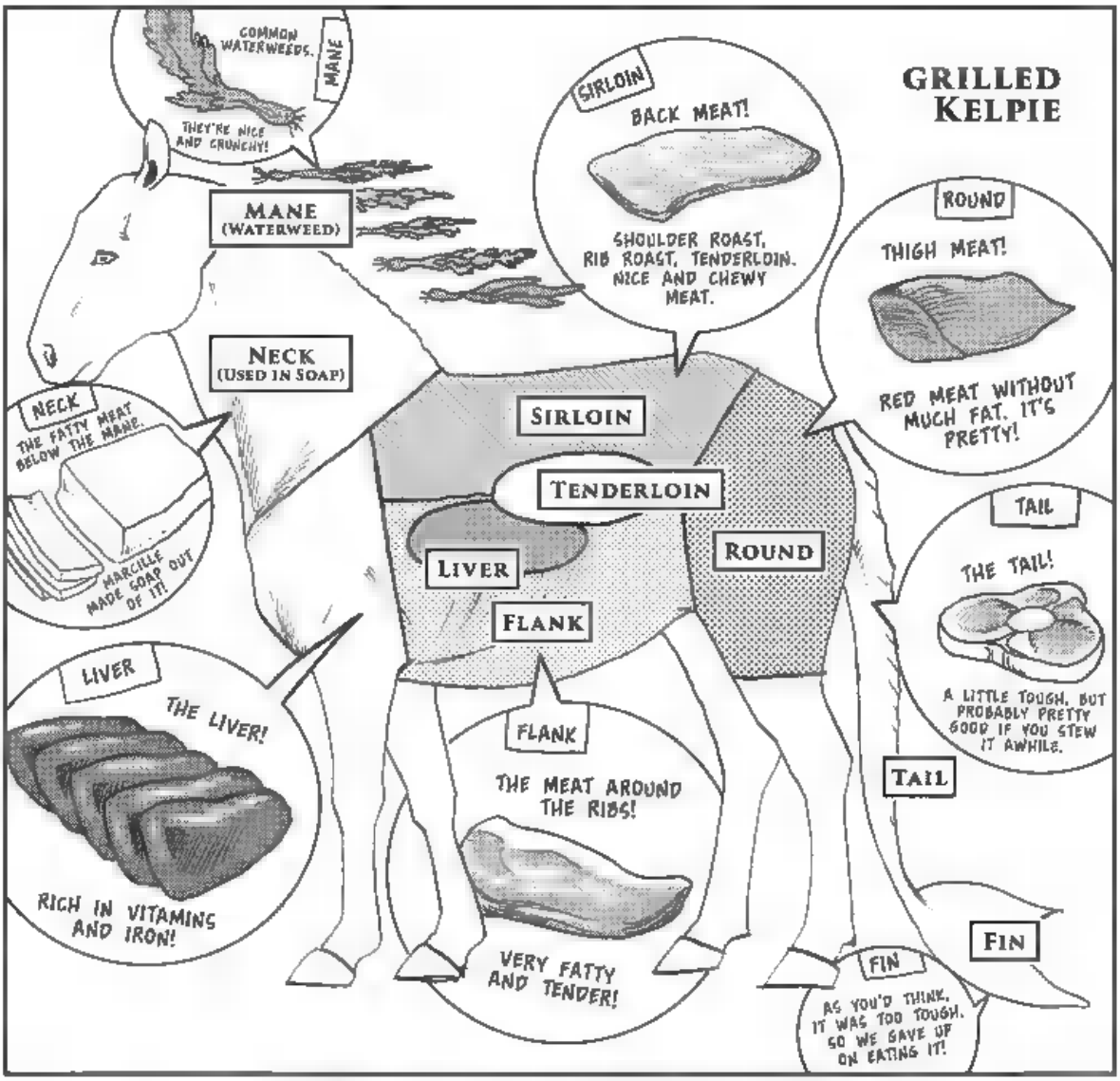
H-HEY.
LOOK...

DO (WHUD)
プチ
PUCHI (SQUISH)

...RUUUUN!
UP!
RUN UP!
チュン (CHUN (CZIP)
CHUN チュン
FOR NOW, LET'S...

I STOPPED THE BLEEDING...
...BUT I'M LOW ON MANA AND BLOOD.
I CAN'T HEAL IT ALL THE WAY.
MARCILLE, HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
HM...
DON'T APOLOGIZE. LIE DOWN FOR A BIT.
I'M SORRY.
LET'S WAIT FOR OTHER ADVENTURERS TO PASS BY.
IF THEY HAVE A HEALER OR MAGIC USER...
WE CAN'T TAKE A MAGIC USER WHO'S OUT OF MANA ANY FARTHER IN.
WITHOUT WATER-WALK, WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE ANYWAY...
MANA IS BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...
I WISH I'D TAKEN FALIN'S HEALING MAGIC LESSONS MORE SERIOUSLY.
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
FOODS THIS NUTRITIOUS ARE RARE IN THE DUNGEON.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT NUTRITION.
MEAT...
THE BEST WE'VE GOT IS KELPIE MEAT.
WE'D BETTER HOPE THEY'RE ACTUALLY STARVING.
THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL GET A CONVENIENT GOOD SAMARITAN.
WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING WE CAN TRADE.

IT'S GRILLING TIME!
IRON...
THAT MEANS...
IS THERE ANY LIVER IN THERE?
AH!
OF COURSE.
THE IRON IN LIVER IS QUALITY STUFF.
ガシャン
GASHAN (CLANG)


GRILLED KELPIE
COMMON WATERWEEDS.
MANE
THEY'RE NICE AND CRUNCHY!
MANE (WATERWEED)
NECK (USED IN SOAP)
NECK
THE FATTY MEAT BELOW THE MANE.
MARCILLE MADE SOAP OUT OF IT!
SIRLOIN
BACK MEAT!
SHOULDER ROAST, RIB ROAST, TENDERLOIN. NICE AND CHEWY MEAT.
SIRLOIN
TENDERLOIN
LIVER
FLANK
ROUND
ROUND
THIGH MEAT!
RED MEAT WITHOUT MUCH FAT. IT'S PRETTY!
TAIL
THE TAIL!
A LITTLE TOUGH, BUT PROBABLY PRETTY GOOD IF YOU STEW IT AWHILE.
TAIL
LIVER
THE LIVER!
RICH IN VITAMINS AND IRON!
FLANK
THE MEAT AROUND THE RIBS!
VERY FATTY AND TENDER!
FIN
FIN
AS YOU'D THINK, IT WAS TOO TOUGH, SO WE SAVE UP ON EATING IT!

ENERGY
VITAMINS
CARBS
CALCIUM
PROTEIN
IRON
FAT
ONIONS
EAT YOUR VEGGIES TOO.
CABBAGE

CAN YOU SIT UP?
WE MADE SOMETHING GOOD.
MARCILLE...
MARCILLE.
JUU (SIZZLE)
SORRY, MARCILLE. I GUESS I'M EATING FIRST.
WHERE'S THE LIVER?
YOU'VE GOT TO COOK ORGAN MEAT REAL WELL.
ROUND STEAK.

DOES IT TASTE MORE LIKE HORSE OR A MARINE MAMMAL?
I'VE NEVER EATEN EITHER, SO I CAN'T TELL. UNFORTU-NATELY.
HMM. IT'S A BIT STRINGY, BUT IT'S GOOD.
YEAH. THE FLAVOR'S REALLY MILD.
MARCILLE, THE LIVER'S READY.
THE FAT'S SWEET.
NICE AND SOFT.
FLANK.
HERE YOU GO. LIVER.
IT MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH.
I LIKE THIS.
TENDER-LOIN.
HERE, MARCILLE.
IT HAS AN INTER-ESTING FLAVOR.
IT'S GOOD.
EAT YOUR VEGGIES TOO.
TAIL.

MOGU (CHEW)
モグ…
:MOGU
モグ。
MORE LIVER.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S FEELING A BIT BETTER.
GAKU (SLUMP)
ガク
LIVER'S AMAZING.
LET ME EAT OTHER PARTS TOO!!
LUH …
"LUH"?
I STILL THINK THAT WAS THE BEST MOVE.
WHY DID WE STUFF THE BASILISK WITH THE MANA HERBS?
IF ONLY THERE WAS MEAT THAT RECOVERED THAT.
THAT ASIDE…
…WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT HER LOW MANA?

KUN (SNIFF)
KUN

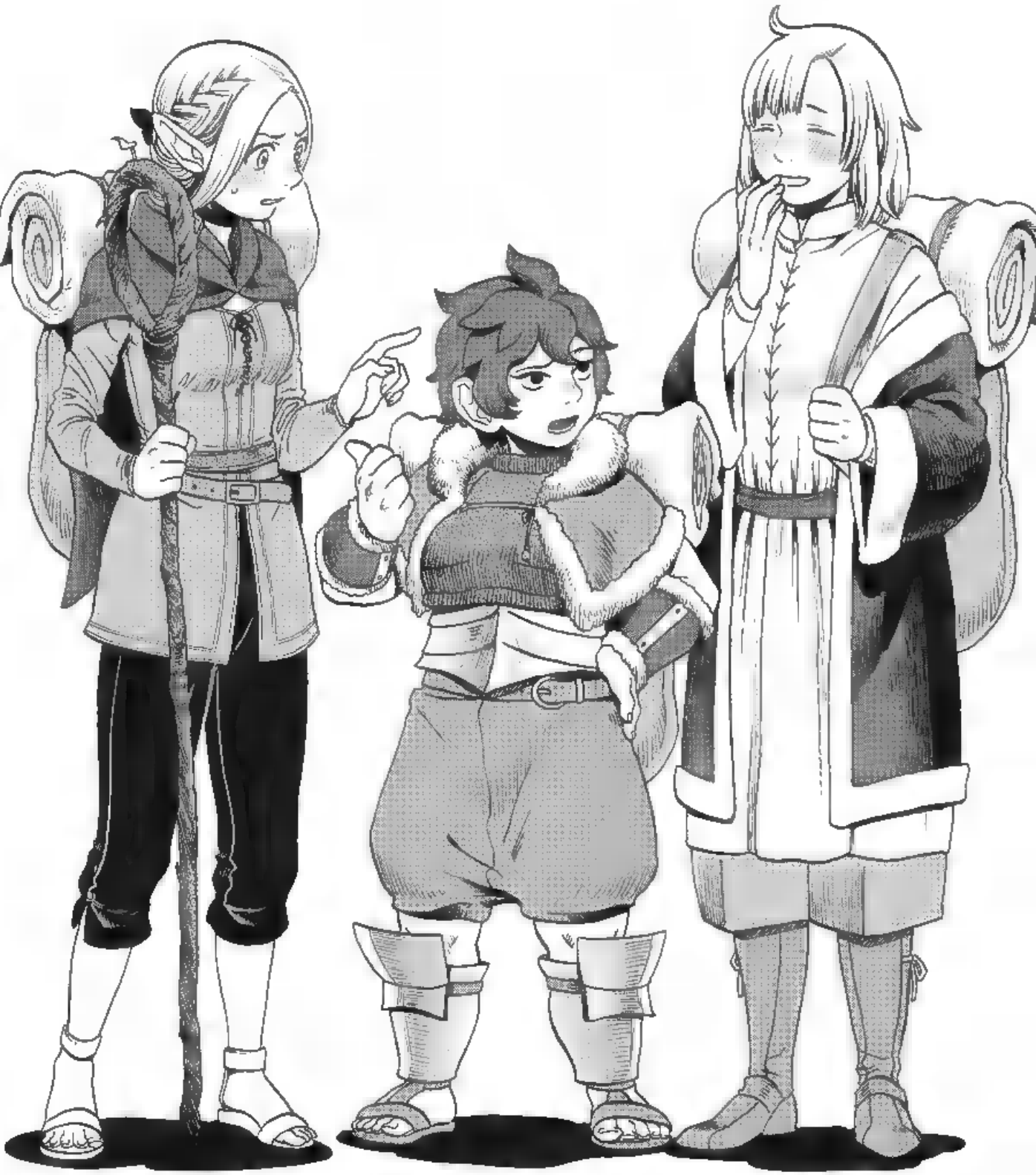
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT WOULD BE GRILLING MEAT HERE?

LIKE THEY'RE WHAT? HUHN!

DO YOU SMELL THAT?
IT'S COMING FROM DOWN THERE.

WHAT KIND OF SMELL IS IT?
GRILLING MEAT, MAYBE?
IT'S LIKE SOME-BODY'S COOKING.

19. Tentacles



THEY'VE NOTICED US TOO.
THEY'RE COMING CLOSER...

KOTSU (TAKK)
KACHA (CLANK)
I HEAR FOOT-STEPS.
ABOUT FIVE PEOPLE... THEY'RE ARMED.
KOTSU

AH!

HM?
HOLD IT. THAT VOICE...

WE DON'T INTEND TO FIGHT YOU!
WE'RE JUST CAMP-ING.
YOU'RE NOT CRIMINALS WHO CAN'T GO BACK ABOVE-GROUND, ARE YOU?

HOW ABOUT THAT...YOU REALLY ARE GRILLING MEAT.
KOTSU

NAMARI!?
IF IT AIN'T LAIOS!
WHOA! I KNEW IT!
FRIENDS OF YOURS?
OLD COM-PANIONS!
HEY! LONG TIME NO SEE.
WELL, MAYBE JUST A WEEK OR SO.
I DUNNO WHICH IS WHICH.
THOSE OVER THERE ARE THE TWINS, KAKA AND KIKI.
THEY'RE SOMEBODY'S HIRED SCHOLARS.
THEY PAY REAL WELL.
WHOOPS. LEMME INTRODUCE YOU.
THESE ARE MY CURRENT EMPLOY-ERS.
MR. AND MRS. TANSU.

Y-YOU LITTLE...
GAKU (SLUMP)
ガクー
...NGH.
I ABAN-DONED HER?
YOU TOLD ME TO WALK INTO THE JAWS OF DEATH WITH YOU FOR FREE, AND I SAID NO, THAT'S ALL.
NAMARI, YOU...
YOU ABANDON FALIN, AND THEN YOU...
DON'T PUSH YOURSELVES.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS...
...FALIN WOULDN'T BE HAPPY ABOUT IT EITHER.
MARCILLE, YOU REST.
OH, COME ON.
KELPIE MEAT...?
NO-BODY NEEDS THAT!
IN EX-CHANGE FOR...?
AH!
OH, RIGHT!
IS ONE OF YOU A HEALER?
WE'D LIKE YOU TO TREAT OUR FRIEND.

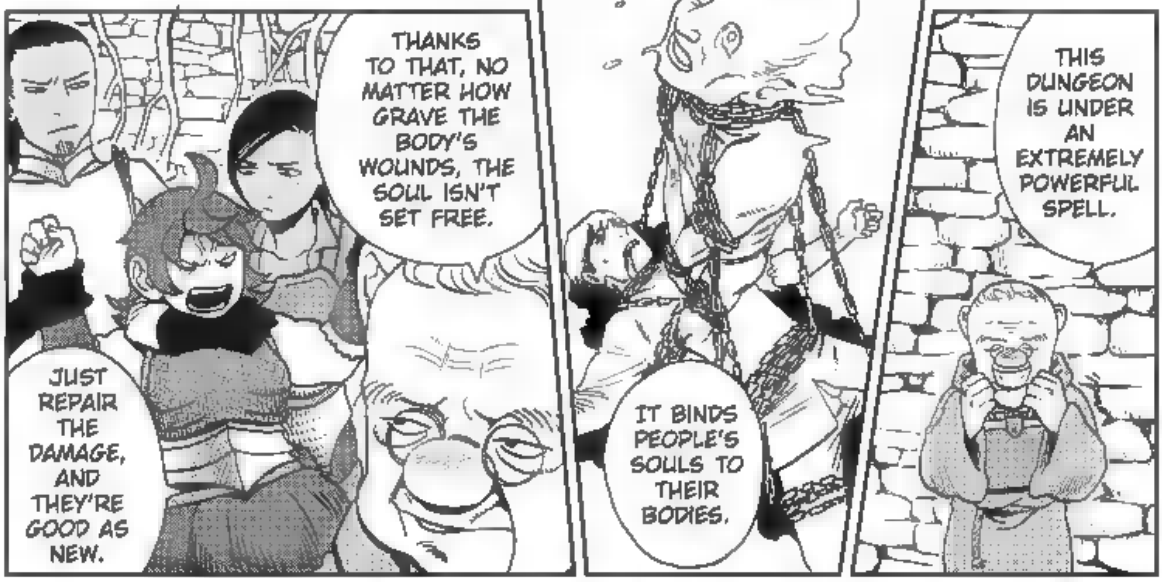
EVEN THE CORPSES WE FOUND ON THE WAY HAD MONEY TO COVER THEIR RESURRECTION...
GOOD GRIEF.
PRACTICING CHARITY IN THE DUNGEON WILL TRIP YOU UP.
WE'RE GOING, NAMARI.
CHIRA (GLANCE).
チラ!!
AN UNDINE ...?
HMPH.
SO YOU ANGERED A WATER SPIRIT, DID YOU?
HA HA.
IT'S DANGEROUS. THERE'S AN UNDINE ROAMING AROUND.
YOU'RE GOING BEYOND THIS POINT?
TO US, THE SPIRITS ARE NEIGHBORS. THEY'RE NOTHING TO FEAR.
WE GNOMES HAVE LIVED WITH GODS AND SPIRITS SINCE ANTIQUITY.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE US.

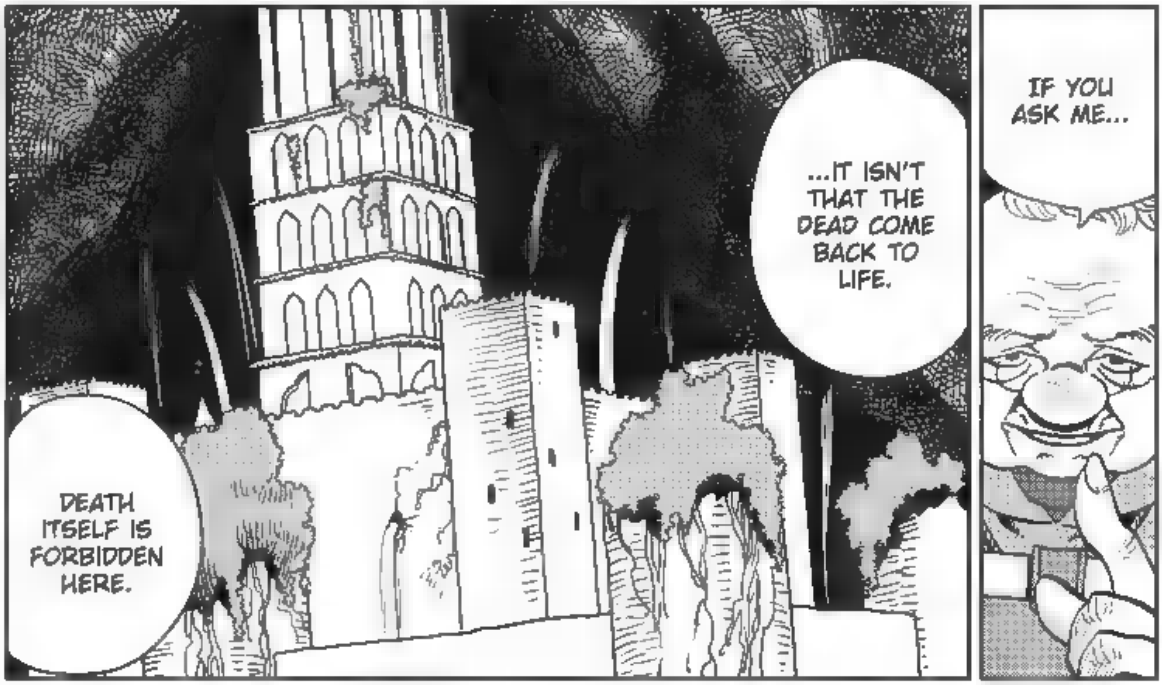
HEARKEN TO MY VOICE.
O GREAT SPIRIT OF THE WATER!
UN-DINE!
HM?
AH, THAT WON'T DO.
PUKU (BLOOP)
CHUN (ZZZZIP)
ORANOPA TANSU!

N-NAMARI!
IT DIDN'T WORK.
HUFF!
WHEEZE! HUFF!
NAMARI DIED!
YEAH...
I'LL FIX IT.

FLU
CHEEO

YOU USE ME AS A SHIELD EVERY SINGLE LOUSY TIME!!
YES, AND THAT'S WHY YOUR PAY IS SO GENER-OUS!!
YOU DAMN OLD FART!
THE DEAD DON'T COME BACK TO LIFE.
NOT OUTSIDE THE DUNGEON, NO, BUT...
YOU'RE AGAINST REVIVIFI-CATION?
IT'S NOT A PLEASANT THING TO WATCH.
RESUR-RECTION MAGIC, HM?
OF ALL MAGIC, THAT'S THE SORT I LIKE LEAST.
HE'S RIGHT!
IT'S NOT NOR-MAL.
THAT'S NOT NORMAL, LAIOS.
...IT'S NORMAL HERE.

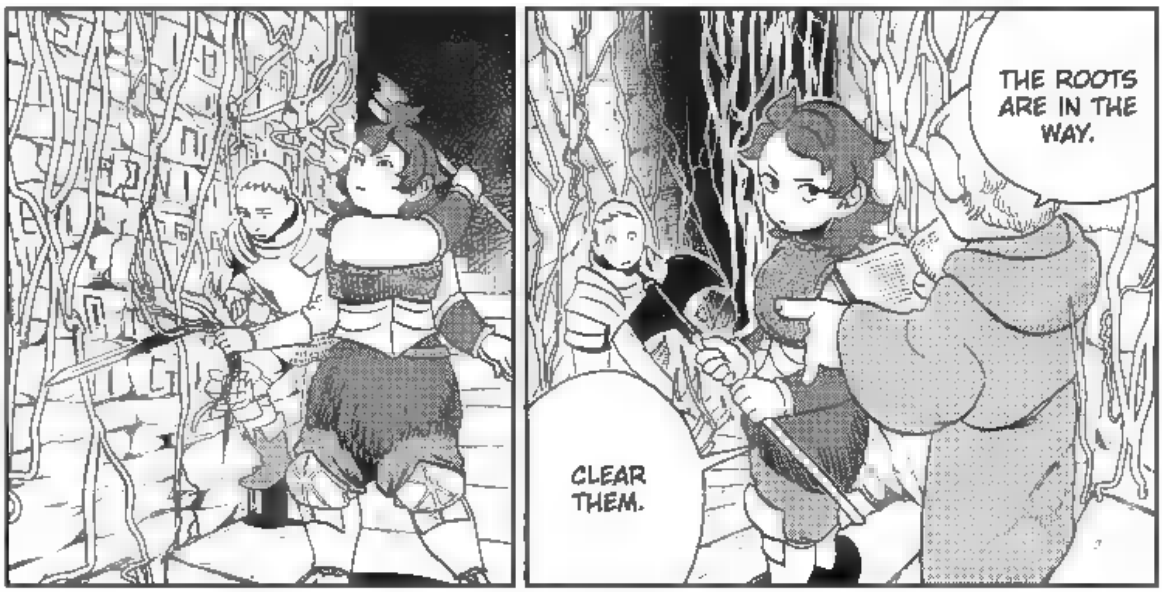

THANKS TO THAT, NO MATTER HOW GRAVE THE BODY'S WOUNDS, THE SOUL ISN'T SET FREE.
JUST REPAIR THE DAMAGE, AND THEY'RE GOOD AS NEW.
IT BINDS PEOPLE'S SOULS TO THEIR BODIES.
THIS DUNGEON IS UNDER AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL SPELL.


...IT ISN'T THAT THE DEAD COME BACK TO LIFE.
DEATH ITSELF IS FORBIDDEN HERE.
IF YOU ASK ME...

I CAME TO EXAMINE MAGIC CIRCLES NEAR HERE.
...BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, MY GUARD IS A BIT UNRELI-ABLE.
THAT SAID...
...I'M RE-SEARCHING ANCIENT CURSES LIKE IT.
WHAT AN ABOMINABLE CURSE.

ALL RIGHT.
!
IF YOU'LL AID MY INVESTIGATION, I'LL HEAL YOUR FRIEND.
YOU STAY HERE IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME.
I WANTED TO LOOK AT THE OTHER TOWER FIRST, BUT...
...THE UNDINE IS IN THE WAY, SO WE'LL START WITH THIS ONE.
WE ARE HERE
I'M STUDYING TWO LOCATIONS.
UNDINE
ONE IS UNDER THIS TOWER, AND THE OTHER IS UNDER THE TOWER OPPOSITE US.
MAGIC CIRCLES
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MARCILLE?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GREAT.
HANG ON JUST A LITTLE LONGER, ALL RIGHT?
SENSHI AND I WILL GO, THEN.
CHILCHUCK, YOU STAY HERE WITH MARCILLE.

ELF CHARAC-TERS, HM? ...WHAT ATROCIOUS HAND-WRITING.
IT'S AROUND HERE.


THE ROOTS ARE IN THE WAY.
CLEAR THEM.

LIKE I KEEP TELLING YOU—
"USE A STORE-BOUGHT ONE," RIGHT? I KNOW.
LAIOS...
YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER CREEPY SWORD, HUH?
A DWARF-FORGED ONE.
STEER CLEAR OF SHOPS WITH HALF-FOOT CLERKS.
AND DON'T REUSE YOUR SCAB-BARD!
AND THEN...
YOU! QUIT NEGLECT-ING YOUR WEAPON!
I FEEL BAD FOR YOUR AX!
NO.
WHEN IT COMES TO HANDLING WEAPONS, THERE'S NO ONE I TRUST MORE.
HEY.
YOU THINK I'M BEING ANNOYING, DON'T YOU?

KATA (RATTLE)
カ？…
STAY BACK.
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S A MONSTER LURKING DOWN THERE.
THEN KILL IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT OR WHERE IT IS.
I...I JUST DO.
HUH!? THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE'S A MONSTER?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
MR. TANSU.
IT'S BETTER TO TRUST LAIOS WHEN HE'S LIKE THAT.

I CAN'T INDULGE A BASELESS HUNCH.
IF IT'S LURKING, WE'LL JUST DRIVE IT INTO THE OPEN.
BASHI (THPP)
SHIN (SILENCE)

HYUDA (FAINT)
AHH!
I SEE! TENTACLES, RIGHT!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE IM-PRESSED!
BATA
BATA OKICKO
GYUN (TANK)

WAH!
KIKI! KIKI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
HOO BOY.
KIKI!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? KILL THE MONSTER! HURRY!
UH, MY WEAPON WON'T REACH. OBVIOUSLY.
DO SOME-THING, QUICK!

TENTACLES' SKIN
WHEN THEY TOUCH YOUR SKIN, THEY SHOOT POISON BARBS AND PARALYZE YOU.
OTHER CREATURES' SKIN
YOU ALSO GET AWFUL WELTS.
IF WE GET CAUGHT, IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT WE'LL DIE.
COULD WE LET IT CATCH US AND GET CLOSE TO IT THAT WAY?
TENTACLES ARE NEMATOCYSTIC.
...OKAY.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL GO.
SENSHI, COULD I BORROW YOUR HELMET?
IF YOU DIE, I'LL RESURRECT YOU.
NOW LOOK, GEEZER...
SERIOUSLY. DON'T.
YOU CAN'T TRUST THE SUCCESS RATE ON THOSE RESURRECTION SPELLS.
IT'S FINE.
HEY, LAIOS...
IT'S DAMP.

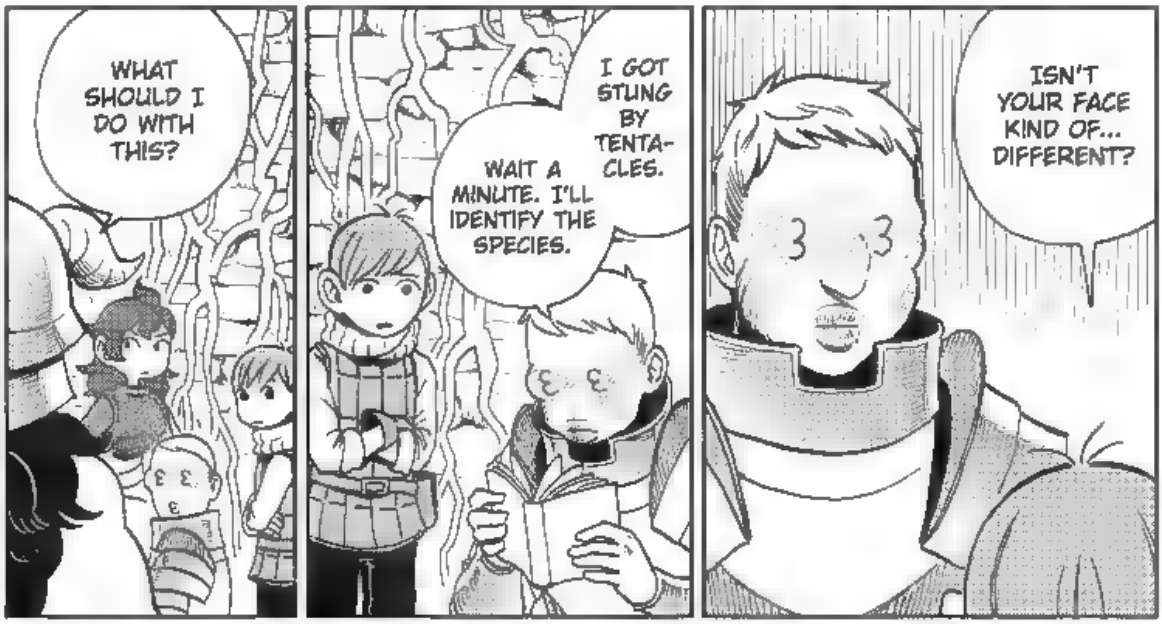
WHAT I'M TRUSTING IS YOU AND SENSHI.
HUHN!?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
I DUNNO.
HERE WE GO!
HEY!
OVER HERE, TENTACLES.
コリン
KOTSUN (TUNK)
ゾロリ (SLITHER)

ZUKI
ズキ
I KNEW IT. THEY EVEN STING THROUGH CLOTHES.
OW, OW, OW, OW, OW!
IT'S GETTING HARD TO MOVE MY ARMS ALREADY.
ZUKI (THROB)
ズキ
BYUN (WHIZZ)
ビュン
GURU (WRAP)
ぐるっ
WAKU WAKU (GIDDY)
ワク ワク
LAIOS, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
AT THE BASE! GET THE BASE!
GISHI (SAW)
ギシ
GISHI
ギシ
...I CAN'T INFLICT LETHAL DAMAGE FROM HERE.
BUT...
BUCHI (SNAP)
ブチ
I GOT IT!
ZUZAAA (SKIID)
ズザァ
DA (DASH)
だっ
PORO (DROP)
ポロ..

DAM-MIT!
SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT!
POI (TOSS)
ポイ
ブチブチ
BUCHI (SNAP) BUCHI
YEAH, SURE, GIMME THE TOUGHEST JOB!

BA
(RELEASE)
KIKI!
DOSA
(WHUMP)
GOSU
(THUNK)
LAIOS, YOU OKAY!?
...GUESS NOT, HUH?

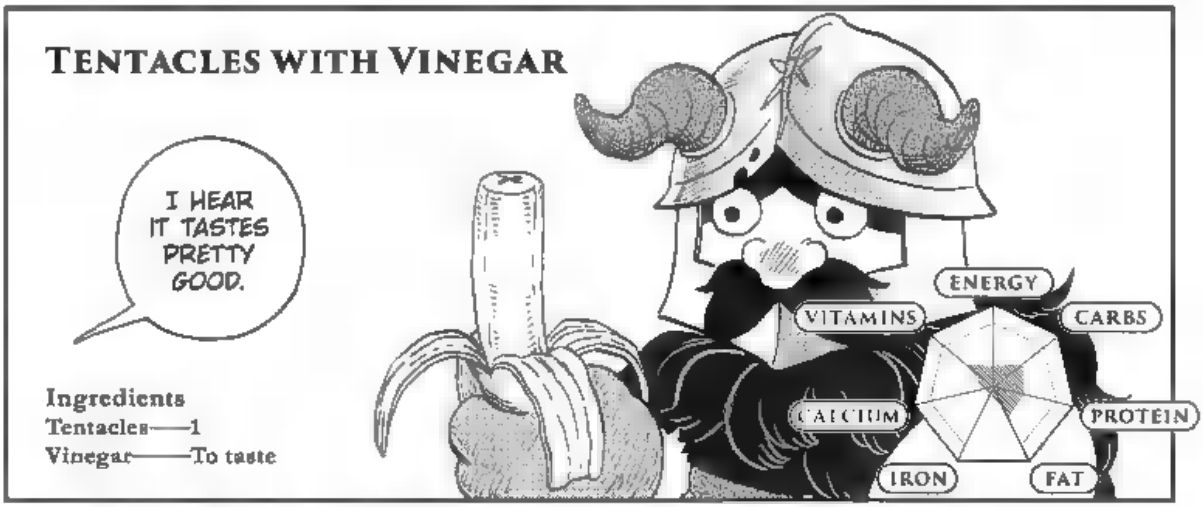
HUH!?
I'LL GET YOU HEALED RIGHT UP.
DEAR ME. KIKI?
WHAT ON EARTH HAP-PENED?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YEEG!
SORRY. I'M GOING TO TAKE A WHILE.
HMM. THIS IS A BIT TRICKY.


WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS?
I GOT STUNG BY TENTA-CLES.
WAIT A MINUTE. I'LL IDENTIFY THE SPECIES.
ISN'T YOUR FACE KIND OF... DIFFERENT?

WHEN I TORE IT OFF, IT PARALYZED MY HAND. I CAN'T LET GO.
YOU'VE GOT A HAND LIKE A GNOME THERE, GUY.
AGH!
WHAT ARE YOU HOLD-ING!?

IVY TENTA-CLES, HM?
ABOUT FIVE CENTIMETERS ACROSS AND TWENTY METERS LONG.
A PALE BROWNISH GREEN. NO SPOTS.
IT LOOKS LIKE A PLANT VINE OR ROOT...
LET ME SEE IT.

IF YOU SPLIT IT LENGTHWISE, YOU CAN PEEL OFF THE OUTER [redacted] AND ITS BARBS.
SCORE AN "X" INTO THE CUT SURFACE.
IF YOU RINSE IT WITH VINEGAR, YOU CAN CURB THE STINGING BARBS A BIT.
IT DOES THE OPPOSITE ON SOME SPECIES, SO BE CAREFUL.


TENTACLES WITH VINEGAR
I HEAR IT TASTES PRETTY GOOD.
Ingredients
Tentacles——1
Vinegar——To taste
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS

PAKURI CHUUCHO
IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY, THEN THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT.
HUH?
ARE YOU SCREWING WITH US?
NO, THIS IS...
IT'S JUST TRIVIA ...

I BET YOU'RE IMAGINING THAT.
BITTER
I THINK DIFFERENT AREAS TASTE DIFFERENT!
FISHY
SWEET
FAINTLY SWEET
HM...
MOGU (CHEW) もぐ
THIS IS...!
LET ME HAVE SOME TOO!!
I SEE. NOT BAD.
COOKED PROPERLY, IT WILL BE BETTER.
ALL I TASTE IS VINEGAR.
NO, IT'S TRUE!
TRY SOME.
SLIMY TOO. WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS?
.....
IT'S SOUR.
WANT TO TRY SOME, MARCILLE?
HUH? WHAT IS IT?

NO, NO, I DON'T NEED IT!!
I'M NOT HARD UP FOR FOOD!
HERE. I RECOMMEND THIS BIT.
HUH!?
HERE, NAMARI. YOU TOO.
I KNOW. IT'S TARO ROOT.
TELL ME IT'S TARO ROOT.
STEW IT? MAYBE MASH AND GRILL IT?
NICE.
.....
WITH SPICES, WE CAN GET RID OF THE FISHINESS.
IT COULD PAIR TOLERABLY WELL WITH VEGETABLES.
...IT'S COOKABLE.
BUT IT'S GOOD.
IT'S NOT GOOD, BUT...
IT'S OUT!!
SURURI (SLIP)
スルリ

START WITH HER, IF YOU WOULD.
THAT'S A HUGE HELP.
MY APOLOGIES.
I'LL TREAT YOU NOW.

AHHHH!
BEING HEALTHY IS THE BEST!!
HUH?
BWEH HEH! WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?
THANKS, LAI...
THANK NAMARI, NOT ME.
HUH?
NO, UH...
THAT WAS MY FIRST TIME USING ONE.
DOSU (THUNK)
THAT WAS AN INCREDIBLE SHOT.
TO THINK SHE'D KILL IT WITH ONE BOLT!
WE'RE LUCKY YOU'RE GOOD WITH A CROSS-BOW, NAMARI.
NAMARI...
.....

YOU'RE VERY WELCOME.
SEE? PEOPLE WORK BETTER WHEN THEY'RE NOT WORKING FOR FREE.
FOR NOW, THANK YOU FOR HELPING US.
THE FALIN MATTER ASIDE.
IT'S ALL OVER AND DONE WITH.
NOW, NOW, YOU TWO.
HONESTLY! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
SO YOU'RE THE LEADER? THAT MUST BE ROUGH.
...WHO'S ACTING LIKE IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM!?
NO...
I WASN'T TRYING TO...
AND ANYWAY, WHY ARE YOU THE ONE...
NO IT ISN'T!

20. Stew

IT'S LOOKING THIS WAY.
DO YOU THINK IT'S STILL MAD?
ARGH, WHAT A BLUNDER.
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH ELVES.
YEAH. ELVES. SHEESH.
I TOSSED OUT SOME WATER I'D BOILED, AND I GUESS I HIT IT...
WHAT DID YOU DO TO GET A SPIRIT THAT RILED UP?
I'VE NEVER TAKEN AN ATTACK THAT FIERCE BEFORE.
IS THERE A WAY TO CALM SPIRITS WITHOUT USING MAGIC?
WE REALLY HAVE TO GET THROUGH HERE.
MY RACE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

SINGLE SPIRITS LIVE ABOUT ONE WEEK.
A WEEK...
WHEN THE CURRENT INDIVIDUALS REACH THE END OF THEIR NATURAL LIVES...
...THE GENERATION SHIFT SHOULD QUELL THE HOSTILITY.
THAT'S SIMPLE. UNDINES ARE A COLLECTIVE OF MINUTE SPIRITS.
HEY. PREPARE THE RETURN SPELL.
...WE'RE HEADED BACK ABOVEGROUND.
I'LL CONTINUE MY INVESTIGATION SOME OTHER DAY.
WE CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG.
I CONCUR.
AND SO...
MR. TANSU, COULD WE ASK A FAVOR?
HM?
"THE RETURN SPELL," HE SAID.
RIGHT.
HEY, LAIOS.

NOW!? WHEN WE'VE COME THIS FAR!?
YOU'RE OUT OF MANA.
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO GO BACK ABOVE-GROUND WITH THEM!?
I HEAR THAT'S LIKE ANEMIA.
YOU SHOULD GO BACK UP WITH THE TANSUS' GROUP.
ANYWAY, REALLY, I'M JUST FINE.
I THINK MY MANA CAME BACK WHILE I WAS RESTING.
IT'S THE DAILY ACCUMU-LATION THAT—
NUTRITION DOESN'T AFFECT HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT AWAY.
TELL ME LATER, 'KAY?
BUT I'M FINE! I FEEL SO GOOD, EVEN I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
OH! IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THAT LIVER.
LET'S JUST LEAVE HER.
SHINARI
TH-THAT'S, UH...
GUGUGU (STRAIN)
SHINNARI (WILT)
BUT YOUR STAFF...
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE MANA RUNNING THROUGH IT LIKE USUAL.

PFFT!
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU MAKE THAT FACE BEFORE.
BUT WHAT ARE THE REST OF YOU GONNA DO?
YOU CAN'T FIGHT A DRAGON WITH JUST TWO PEOPLE.
DON'T COUNT ME FOR THAT STUFF.
PLUS, THAT AX OF YOURS...
...REALLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT COULD ■ ANY THREAT TO A DRAGON.
.....
NAMARI, YOU'VE KILLED SEVERAL DRAGONS... RIGHT?
YEAH.
TH...
THEN...

MARCILLE?
NAMARI, PLEASE!
COME BACK TO THE PARTY!
JUST THIS ONCE, ALL RIGHT?
I'LL GET MONEY FOR YOU SOMEHOW...!
HELP LAIOS AND THE OTHERS DEFEAT THE RED DRAGON!
I WANT TO SAVE FALIN, NO MATTER WHAT!
CHIL-CHUCK!
WHY...?
QUIT, MARCILLE. JUST DON'T.

YES.
RIGHT, MR. TANSU?
...HAD BEEN STRESSING ABOUT MONEY FOR A WHILE.
IN FACT, I EXPECT SOMEBODY TOLD YOU THAT NAMARI...
RUMORS SPREAD BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK.
ADVENTURERS ARE A TIGHT COMMUNITY.
...YOUR CLIENT DEMOGRAPHIC WOULD CHANGE.
WELL, I BET THERE'D STILL BE WORK, BUT...
THEY WON'T CARE ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
...THAT YOU'LL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY.
PEOPLE WILL START SAYING...
...IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD TO COME BACK JUST BECAUSE WE PAID YOU TO.
SINCE IT WAS AN EMPLOYER PROBLEM.
SO EVEN IF WE SAY YOU HAD TO LEAVE...
JUST GIVE UP, MARCILLE.
...YOU HEARD HIM.
NOT IF YOU BOTH CARE ABOUT YOUR FUTURES.
SO DON'T EVEN TRY IT.

WHA...
WHAT IS IT?
A WAY FOR ME TO GET MY MANA BACK.
...NO.
THERE'S STILL A WAY.
.....
.....
DRINK...
...THE UNDINE!!
MANA HERBS ARE ACTUALLY MANDRAKES THAT WERE RAISED ON WATER SPIRITS.
SPIRITS EAT MANA TO LIVE.
GOT TURNED INTO ROAST BASILISK?
THEY'RE SURE TO BE FULL OF MANA.
WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION!?
WHERE'S ALL YOUR ENTHUSIASM THIS TIME?
SPIRITS DON'T REALLY INTEREST ME...
HUH? DRINK THAT?
BLEH.

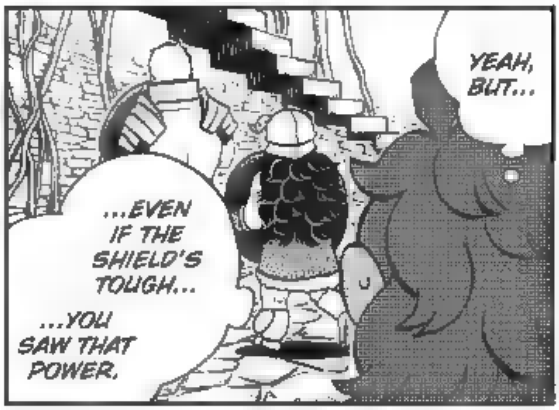
HMMM...
BUT WATER SPIRITS ARE WEAK TO HEAT, SO...
...IF WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT...
CATCHING THAT THING IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE HARDER THAN DEFEATING IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
WELL, THEY ARE, BUT THAT'S...
I KNOW.
I STILL WANT TO TRY.
OR AFTER IT ATTACKS...
...GET TO THE PART THAT'S PUDDLED ON THE FLOOR...
OR POUR OIL OVER THE LAKE AND SET IT ON FIRE SO THAT IT HAS NOWHERE TO RUN?
JYUUU (SIZZ)
MAYBE WE COULD ATTACK IT WITH A HOT WEAPON?
C'MON, MARCILLE, THINK.
THERE MUST BE SOME-THING...
...AND DRINK IT REAL FAST!
RIGHT...
PYUUU (SPURT)
WOULDN'T IT PUNCH HOLES [redacted] YOU FROM THE INSIDE?

THAT THING PUNCHED THROUGH STONE PILLARS.
COULD YOU BLOCK IT WITH THAT RATTY OLD POT?
IT WOULD JUST PUT A HOLE THROUGH BOTH OF YOU.
IT'S NOT SAFE TO HEAT IT WHEN IT'S EMPTY.
IF WE HEATED THIS POT AND USED IT AS A SHIELD, WE COULD ATTACK AND DEFEND AT THE SAME TIME!
FOOD DOESN'T SCORCH AND STICK TO IT, AND IT HEATS EVENLY.
IT'S A VERY GOOD POT.
IT'S NOT A RATTY OLD POT.
IT'S A FAMILY HEIRLOOM FROM GENERATIONS BACK.
WE'VE ALWAYS TAKEN EXCELLENT CARE OF IT.
THIS COLOR.
THIS LUSTER.
THE WEIGHT, THE TEXTURE...
(BA CLUNG!)
...HOLD IT.

I'LL BE DAMNED! IT'S ADAMANT!!
UNBELIEV-ABLE...AS A WEAPON, IT CAN SHATTER DRAGON BONES.
AS DEFENSIVE GEAR, IT CAN STOP DRAGON FANGS.
ADAMANT IS ONE OF THE METALS...
...THAT ALL BLACK-SMITHS FANTASIZE ABOUT...
SO WHY IS IT A POT!?
IT USED TO BE A SHIELD...
...BUT WE HAD NO USE FOR IT, SO...
WHADDAYA THINK YOU'RE DOING!? WHAT A WASTE!!
IT'S ALREADY SPLIT INTO A POT AND A LID, SO...
...IF TWO OF US TOOK HALF EACH...
WOULD IT HOLD UP AGAINST AN UNDINE!?
OF COURSE!
LURE THE UNDINE.
TRAP IT.
THEN PUT IT OVER A FIRE AND BURN IT TO DEATH...

IT'S THE ONLY WAY...!

A DWARF'S ONE THING, BUT...
...IS LAIOS STRONG ENOUGH TO PIN IT DOWN?


YEAH, BUT...
...EVEN IF THE SHIELD'S TOUGH...
...YOU SAW THAT POWER.

NAH.
LET'S GET READY TO HEAD BACK.

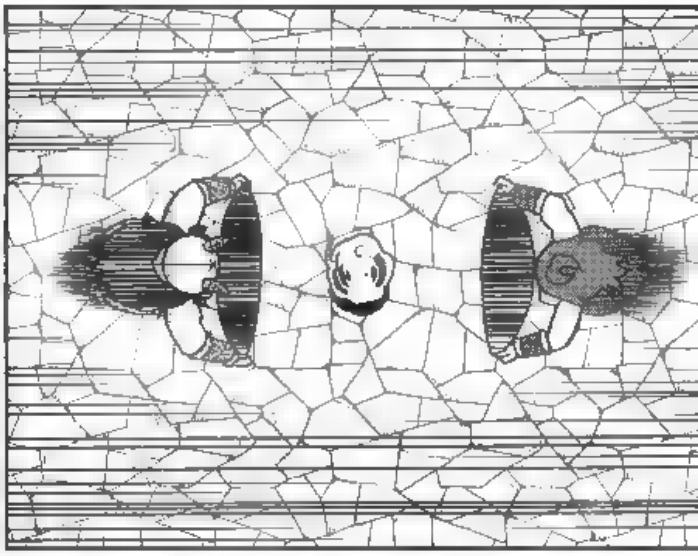
DOKI (BADMP)
ドキ
WORRIED?

JIRI (INCH)
WHEN THE SURFACE WARPS, BRACE YOURSELF.
TRY TO SPILL AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE ...
CHUN (ZZZIP)
BOKO (BLUB)
BOKO
PAAN (SPANG)
LAIOS!

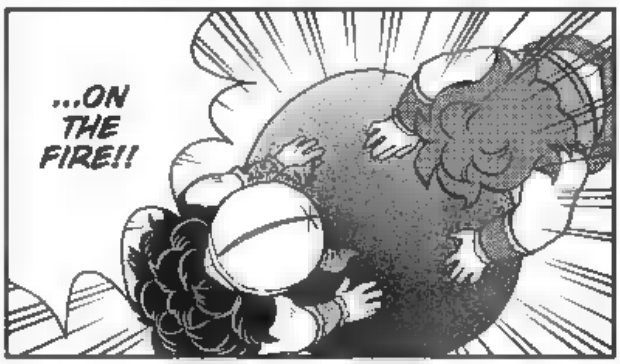
IT WILL TAKE A WHILE TO OPEN THE GATE.
GO FOR A WALK OR SOMETHING.
HAAH...
...WE MAY NEED TO FIND OURSELVES A NEW WARRIOR.
...O-OKAY.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
WHAT INCREDIBLE FORCE.
BIRI (TINGLE)
BIRI
BIRI

ZA (WISH)
ZA
ZA
ZA
PUKU (BLOOP)
GHK...
DOO (WHUD)
MOVE IT, LAIOS!

HWOO...
NOW!
AA (SSSSH)
ZAAAA (WSSSSH)



HOLD YOUR GROUND !!
GOOD... KEEP GOING...
GAN (CLANG)
DON (BANG)


...ON THE FIRE!!

GAN
GAN (CLANG)

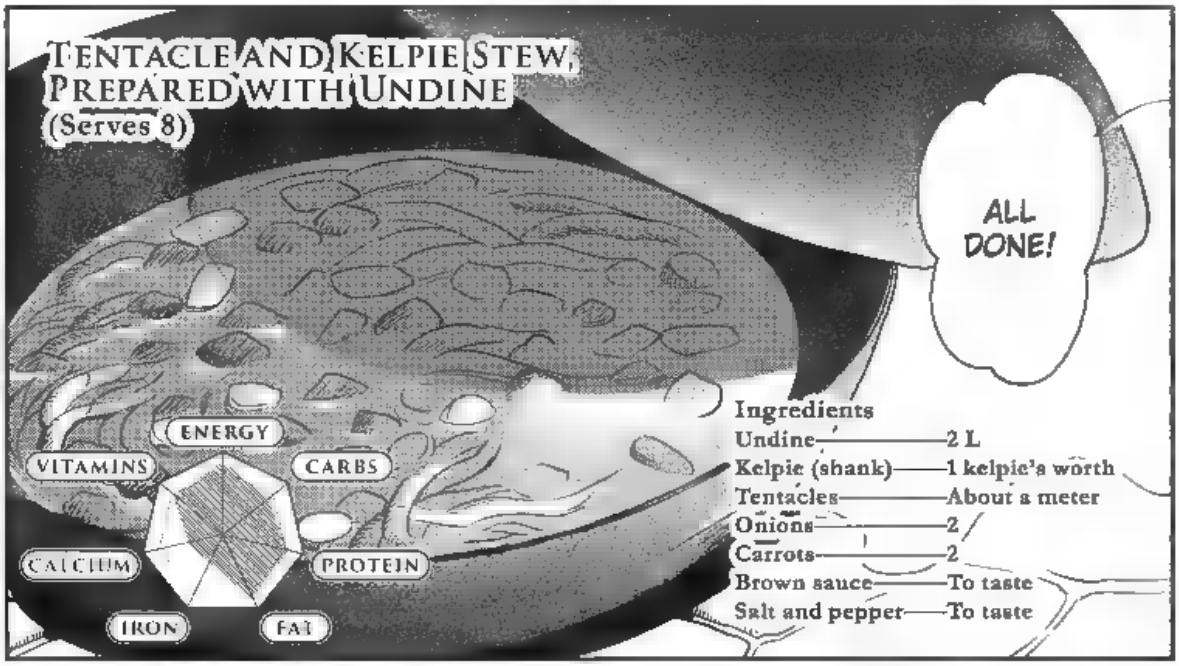
GET IT...

GAN (CLANG)
GOTON (CLUNK)
DON (BANG)
BON (BANG)
HOOOT!!
HOT! HOT!
YOU TOO, LAIOS... ARE YOU OKAY?
TALL-MEN ARE FLIMSIER THAN THEY LOOK.
SENSHI! NAMARI!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
UNBELIEV-ABLE. WHAT MONSTROUS STRENGTH.
WOW! OH WOW!

PWAH!
CHAPO (SPLISH)
GOKU (GULP)
GOKUN
PAKA (OPEN)
CHAPU (SPLISH)
AH!
OH, RIGHT.
THAT MEANS I'VE GOT TO DRINK AS MUCH AS I CAN.
YOU'LL GET WATER INTOXICATION.
...THE THING IS, THE MANA IN SPIRITS IS HARD TO ABSORB.
EVEN IF YOU GET A LOT OF IT, MOST OF IT GOES RIGHT THROUGH YOU.
GOGGU (CHUG)
GABO (GULP)
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRINK IT ALL AT ONCE.

SFX: GOBO GABO

SEASON KELPIE MEAT WITH SALT AND PEPPER.
SLICE THEM INTO GOOD-SIZED PIECES.
PEEL POTATOES, CARROTS, ONIONS, AND TENTACLES.
SKIM OFF ALL THE FOAM.
...THEN ADD THE ONIONS AND CARROTS AND SAUTÉ THEM.
ADD THE MIXTURE TO THE UNDINE.
BROWN THE MEAT...
(USE THE MEAT JUICES FROM THIS STEP TO MAKE BROWN SAUCE.)
STEW WELL, AND THEN...
ADD THE POTATOES AND SPICES.


TENTACLE AND KELPIE STEW, PREPARED WITH UNDINE
(Serves 8)
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
ALL DONE!
Ingredients
Undine——2 L
Kelpie (shank)——1 kelpie's worth
Tentacles——About a meter
Onions——2
Carrots——2
Brown sauce——To taste
Salt and pepper——To taste

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

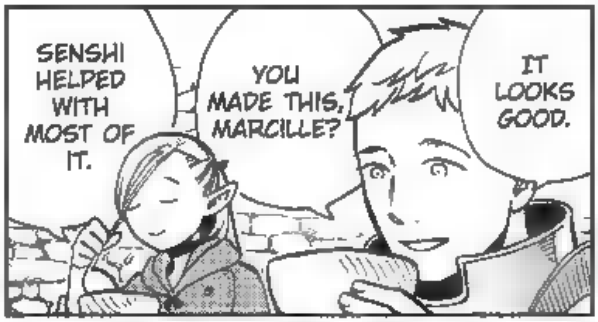
THEY SHOULD BE BACK SOON.

HM? WHERE'S EVERYBODY ELSE?
THEY WENT TO THE TOWER ACROSS THE WAY TO EXAMINE IT.

WON'T YOU EAT WITH US BEFORE YOU GO?

THERE SURE WERE A TON OF 'EM.
I'M GLAD THEY'RE ALL CLEARED AWAY.
OH. S-SAY!

WE'RE BACK!

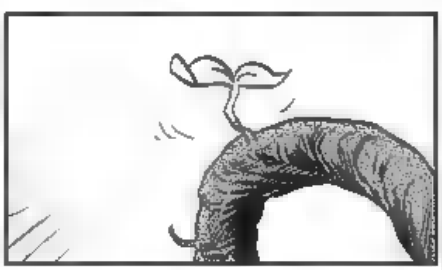

SENSHI HELPED WITH MOST OF IT.
YOU MADE THIS, MARCILLE?
IT LOOKS GOOD.

HERE YOU GO.

OH. RIGHT.
NEVER MIND DISHING IT OUT. JUST HURRY UP AND EAT.

GATSU (SCARF)
がつ
がつ
GATSU

AH... YAY!
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OF MY MANA IS BACK.



GOKURI (GULP)

I WAS PREPARED TO TAKE CRITICISM FOR LEAVING THE PARTY...
...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO SEE THEM LIKE THIS.
HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS FOR THE WHOLE TRIP?
UH-HUH.
YOU GUYS...
WAS IT THE POT?
IS ADAMANT A GOOD MATERIAL FOR POTS?
YUM!
THE BROTH'S SOAKED INTO EVERYTHING.
CAN THINGS COOK THIS WELL IN SO LITTLE TIME?
MAYBE THIS IS PUNISHMENT TOO.
!
I COULDN'T EVEN TELL ORES APART, AND MY.....
...PREVIOUS COMPANIONS OFTEN GOT FED UP WITH ME.
I DON'T MIND.
I DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN FORGING, AND THAT'S A FACT.
YOUR NAME'S SENSHI, RIGHT?
I, UH...
SORRY FOR MAKING FUN OF YOUR AX.

YOU CAN STAY HERE.
NAMARI, WE'RE GOING BACK ABOVE-GROUND.
HUH?
KOTO (TUNK)
KOTON
C'MON, AT LEAST TRY A BITE!
THE TEXTURE'S FUNNY, BUT THIS STUFF'S PRETTY GOOD.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
I'LL DO MY BEST.
...THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE MONEY.
I WANT TO BE YOUR COMPANION.
I CAN'T REALLY ASK YOU TO TRUST ME, BUT...

I WON'T WORK UNLESS I GET PAID IN ADVANCE.
...WHICH DOES MEAN I CAN'T DUCK OUT AT TIMES LIKE THIS...

YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO NEVER TAKES UNPAID JOBS.
OF COURSE NOT.

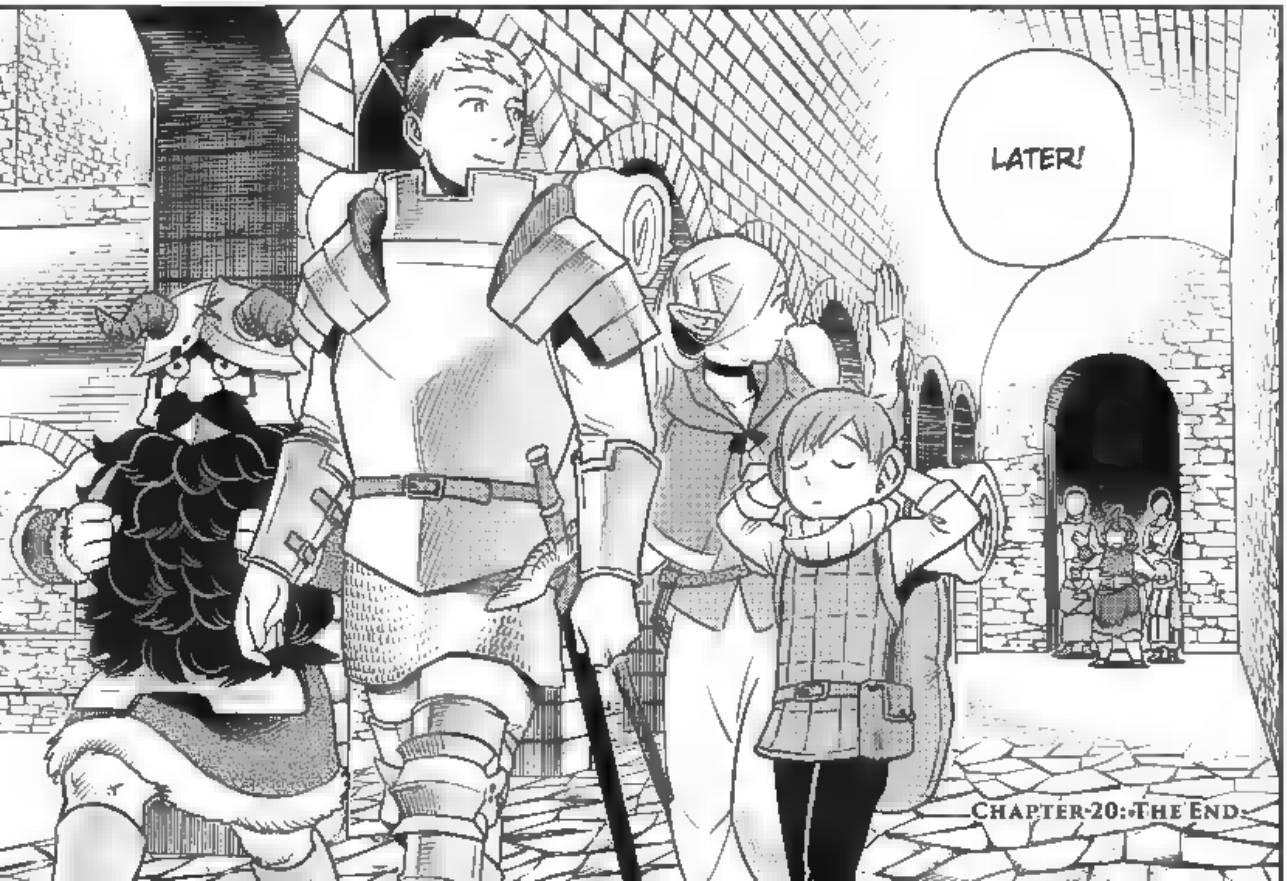
FRANKLY, CHILCHUCK ...
...I FIGURED YOU'D BE THE FIRST ONE OUT.

IN THIS WORLD, THE PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY DON'T NEED ANYTHING IN RETURN...
...ARE THE ONES YOU SHOULD TRUST LEAST.

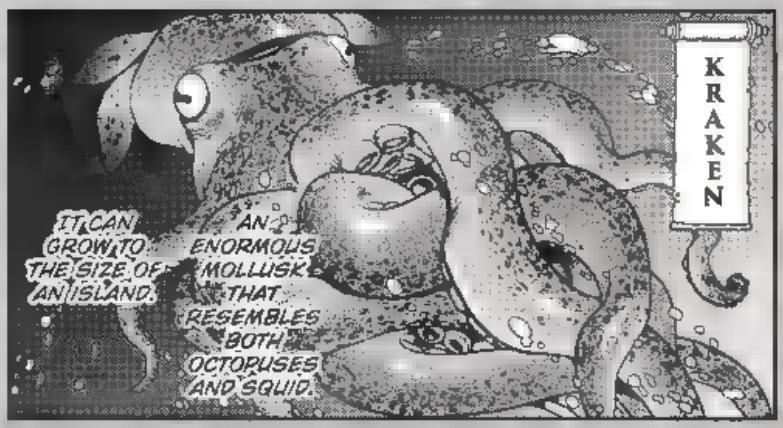
LISTEN, MARCILLE.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING.

HUH!?
YOU STAYED BECAUSE IT WAS A JOB!?
IT WASN'T FOR FRIENDSHIP OR CAMA-RADERIE OR ANYTHING!?

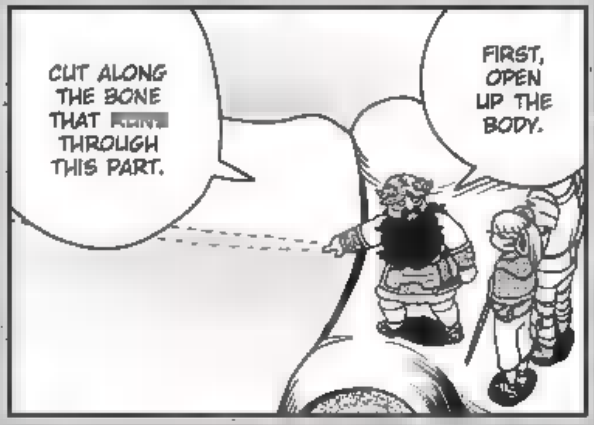
HUH? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
DENSE ...
DENSE!
HE WAS CRAZY ABOUT FALIN. ENOUGH TO PROPOSE.
I BET HE'S STILL LOOKING FOR HER LIKE MAD.
WHAT'S SHURO UP TO?
WHO KNOWS?
IT SOUNDED LIKE HE HAD SOME OTHER CONNEC-TION.

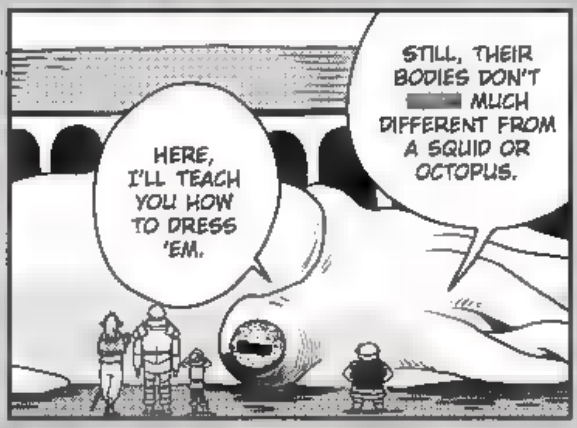


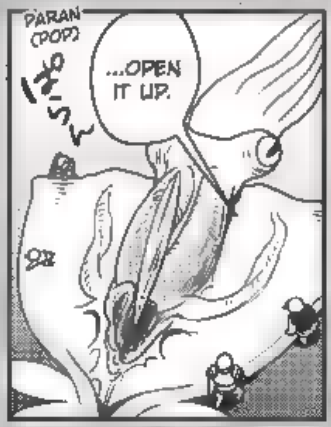
CHAPTER 20: THE END

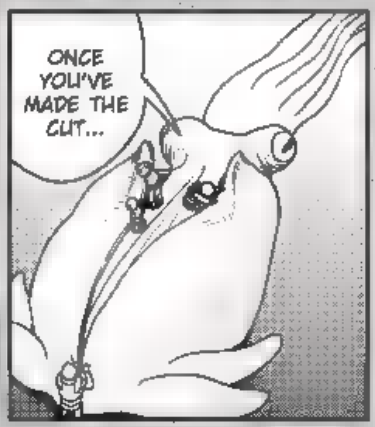


MISC. MONSTER TALES 3









THEY'RE FINE AS LONG AS YOU DON'T EAT THEM THE WRONG WAY.
REALLY PAINFUL ONES.
AND THEY'VE GOT PARA-SITES.
I'M TELLING YOU, THE REGULAR ONES TASTE BETTER.
BUT THE FLAVOR'S SORT OF...
OHH!?
IT'S A LITTLE LIKE A PUZZLE.
INTER-ESTING.
ONE OF THESE DAYS. WHEN I GET THE CHANCE.
I'M INTERESTED IN IT AS A CREATURE ANYWAY...
HAVE SOME AT A PROPER RESTAURANT AT LEAST ONCE.
IT'S A WASTE TO HATE REAL SQUID AND OCTOPUS WITHOUT EVEN TRYING THEM.
DOSU (STAB)
WHAT ARE THESE TUBE-SHAPED THINGS?
I REALLY DON'T LIKE THIS CREATURE!!
LAIOS RESOLVED NEVER TO EAT A CEPHALOPOD AGAIN.
IF YOU EAT SQUID SPERMATOPHORES, THEY STAB YOU IN THE MOUTH, AND IT REALLY HURTS. BE CAREFUL.
IT'S A SACK WITH SPERM IN IT. WHEN STIMU-LATED, IT RELEASES THEM.
!?!?
THAT'S A SPER-MATO-PHORE.
HUH!!? OWW!!
WHAT!? A PARA-SITE!?

3

DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

RYOKO KUI

Translation: Taylor Engel **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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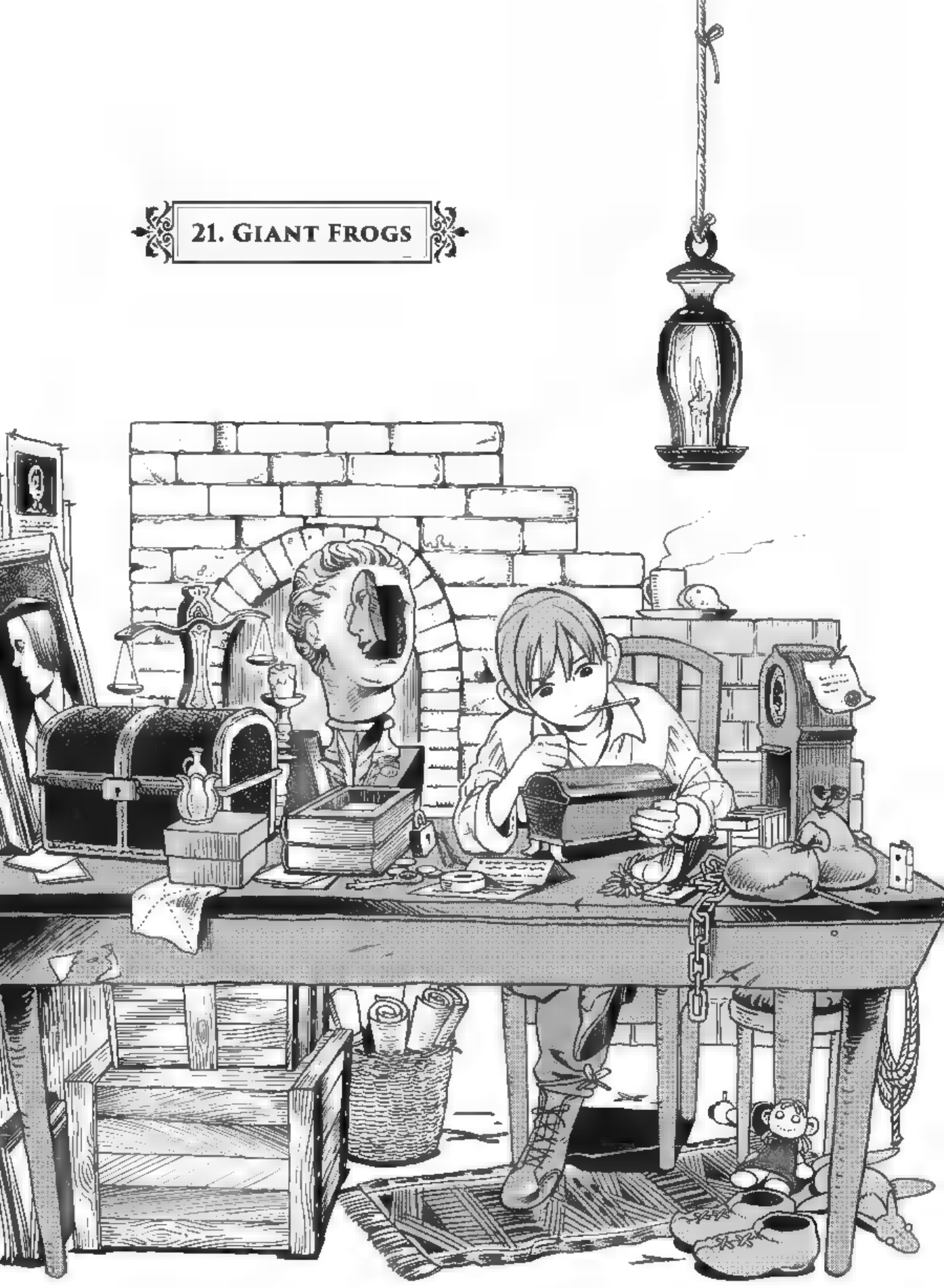
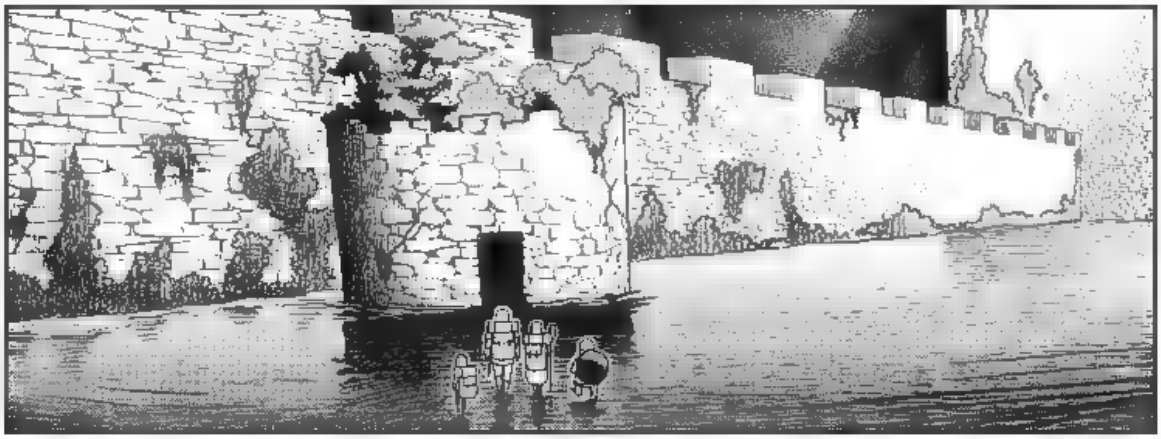
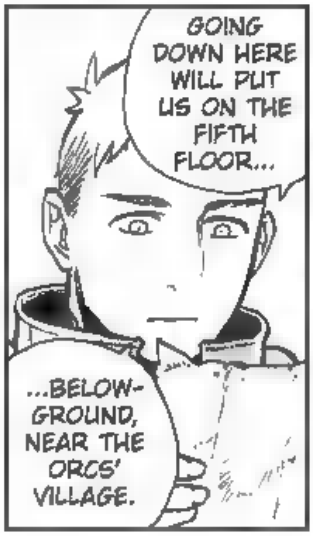
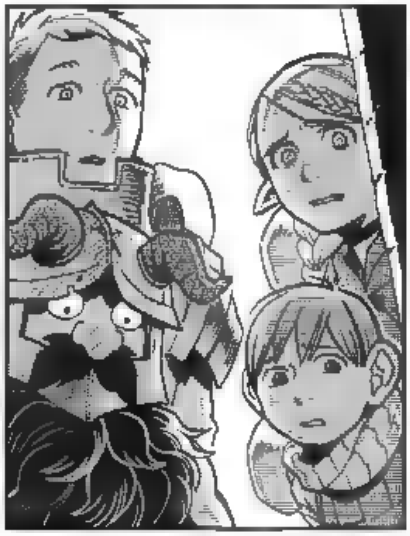
21. Giant Frogs






GOING DOWN HERE WILL PUT US ON THE FIFTH FLOOR...
...BELOW-GROUND, NEAR THE ORCS' VILLAGE.

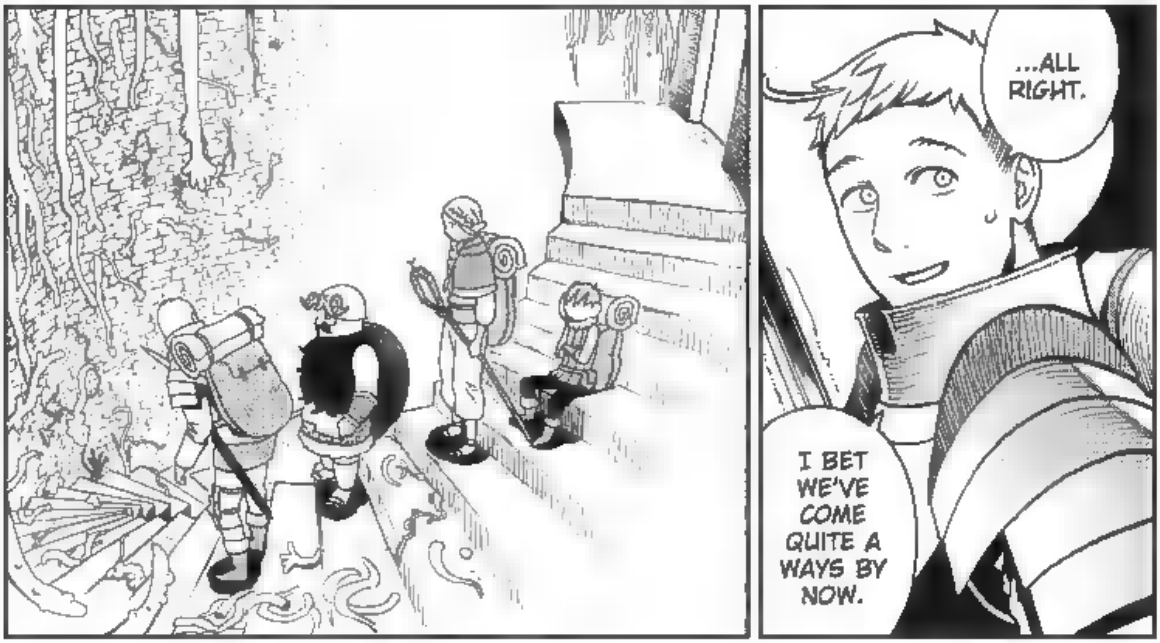
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY?
YES. IT'S THIS STAIR-CASE.

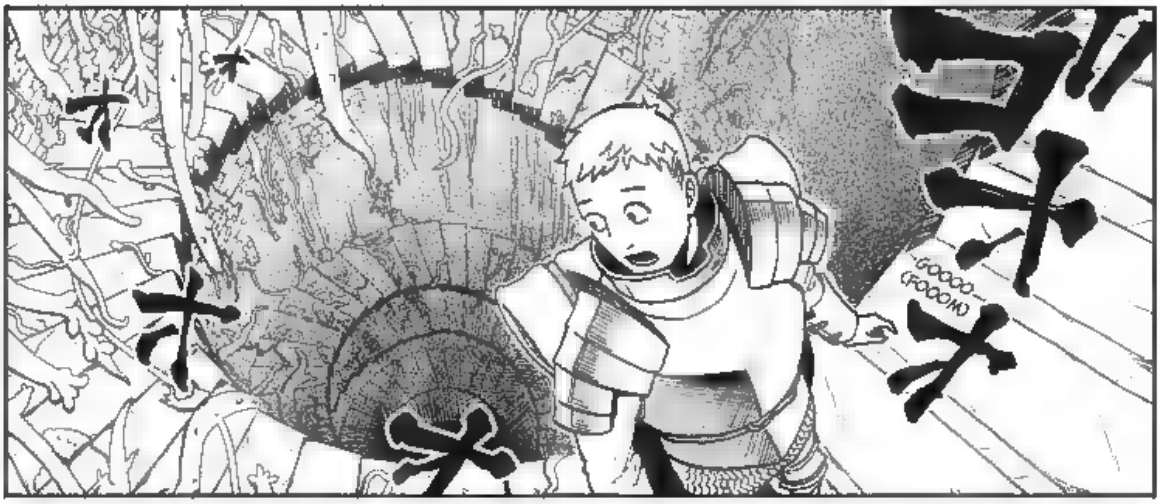


HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GO DOWN THAT?
BISSHIRI (CRAMMED)
...OR THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS ON THE MAP.

YOU THINK? THIS ROAD LEADS TO THEIR VILLAGE.
IF THEY WANT TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY, IT'S PERFECT.
THAT'S SOME REAL WELL-PLAN HARASS-MENT.
THE ORC MUST'VE PULLED A FAST ONE ON US.
HMPH.
THAT'S AMAZING. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF TENTACLE SPECIES HERE.
COLORFUL.
ZAKKU! (SLASH)
ZAKU
LET'S TRY GOING DOWN FOR A BIT.
IN TERMS OF TIME AND EFFORT...
...I THINK IT WOULD BE FASTER TO TAKE A DETOUR.

GUWA (LUNGE)
MARCILLE, DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO THE WALL.
GUI (TUG)
HAAH...
TON (BUMP)
THEY WORK WITH TRAPS TO CAUSE TROUBLE.
SEKI (SNAP)
MICHI (KRIK)
みちち
THEY COMPRESS AND BREAK DEVICES.
THEY GROW ON TREASURE CHESTS.
THEY GROW ON MIMICS TOO?
THEY'RE A MONSTER I'D LOVE TO SEE DIE OUT, RIGHT AFTER MIMICS.
WAUGH!
ゴゴゴゴゴ
ZOWAWA (SHIVER)
THESE THINGS HIDE INSIDE IT.
IT MEANS THERE ARE LOTS OF TRAPS AND DEVICES.
PLACES WITH LOTS OF TENTACLES HAVE LOTS OF CAVITIES.
SFX: GOGOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)
PRESENT...
FOR DECORATION
IF YOU DID SOMETHING ABOUT THE BARBS, I BET THEY'D BE POPULAR WITH WOMEN.
THAT'S AWFUL.
IF YOU'RE JUST LOOKING, MOST MONSTERS ARE HARMLESS.
THEY'RE ALL DIFFERENT, AND I NEVER GET TIRED OF LOOKING AT THEM.
I LIKE THEM.





SOME-THING'S THERE.
BE CARE-FUL.
カサ KASA (RUSTLE)
HOW DID THEY DO IT?
THAT'S ODD.
THE ORCS MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO THE THIRD FLOOR THROUGH HERE.

SFX: KATA (RATTLE)

PAAN
(SPAK)
BA.
(WHIP)
KEN...
WHAT WAS THAT!?
AN UNDINE...!?

KENSUKEEE!
UGH. GROSS...
WHOA! A GIANT FROG.
AAAAAH! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!!
PTOO.

BO
(BOOM!)
I'LL GET IT!
YES!
DOSA
(FLUMP)
PASHIN
(SNATCH)

BA (LEAP)
NOOOOO! AMBROSIA-AAAAA!!
SHE NAMED IT THAT...?
AAAH!

YAAAGH!

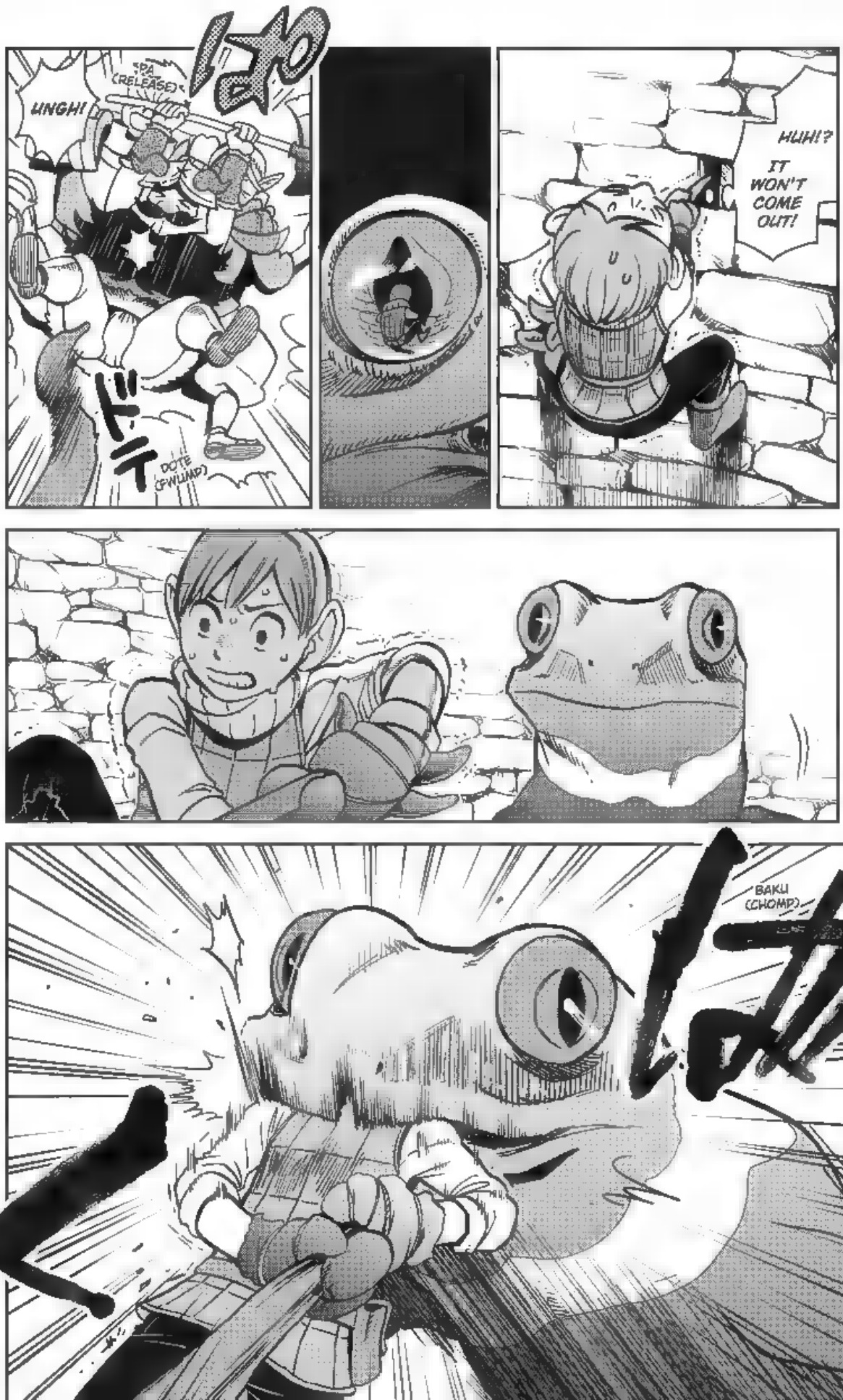
SENSHI, BEHIND YOU!
MMF!
SUPA (SKASH)

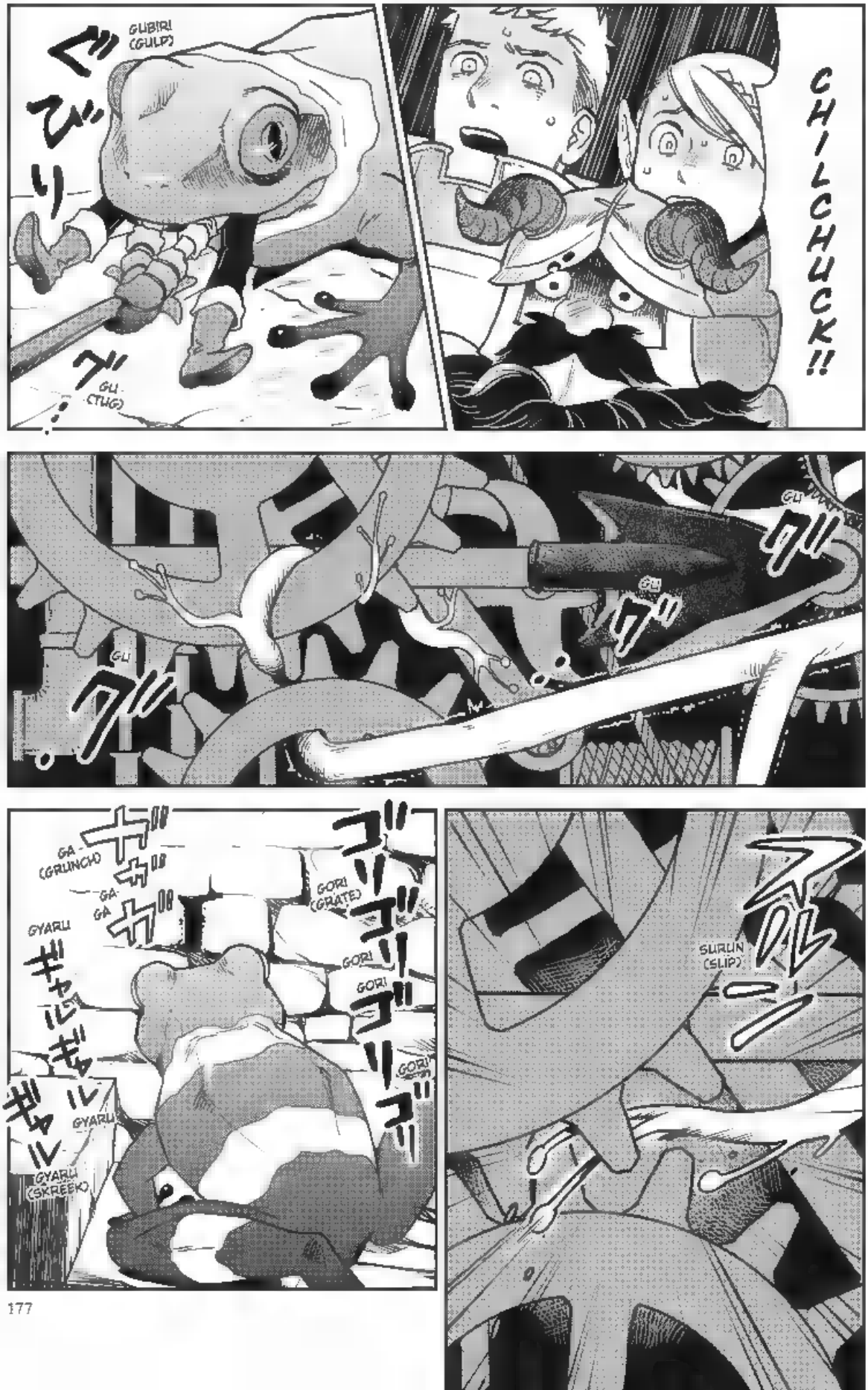
SFX: BURU (TREMBLE) BURU

TRAPS.
THERE'S A TENTACLE STICKING OUT UNNATURALLY RIGHT BY THE FROG.
I BET IT'S ROOTED IN A TRAP FIRING PORT.
BUT...
IF I GET IT OUT, I CAN SPRING THE TRAP.
...HOW DO I PULL IT OUT?
IF I TOUCH IT DIRECTLY, MY HANDS WILL GET BLISTERED...
LAIOS!
WHY DON'T THE GIANT FROGS GET HURT WHEN THEY TOUCH THE TENTACLES!?

I DON'T KNOW...
HUH!?
MAYBE THAT'S JUST HOW THEY'RE MADE!?
ENOUGH!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING! LIKE BODY FLUIDS OR MANA!
SO HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THAT PART, HUH!?
(BAM) (BAM)
ARGH! LOUSY JERK...
CHILDREN'S CURIOSITY JUST WON'T WAIT, WILL IT...?
BAN
GYU (CINCH)
GURU (WRAP)

CHIL-CHUCK ...!?
GU (SLOW)
THIS'LL WORK!
IT DOESN'T HURT...!
GU (YANK)
GYUUU (SQUEEZE)

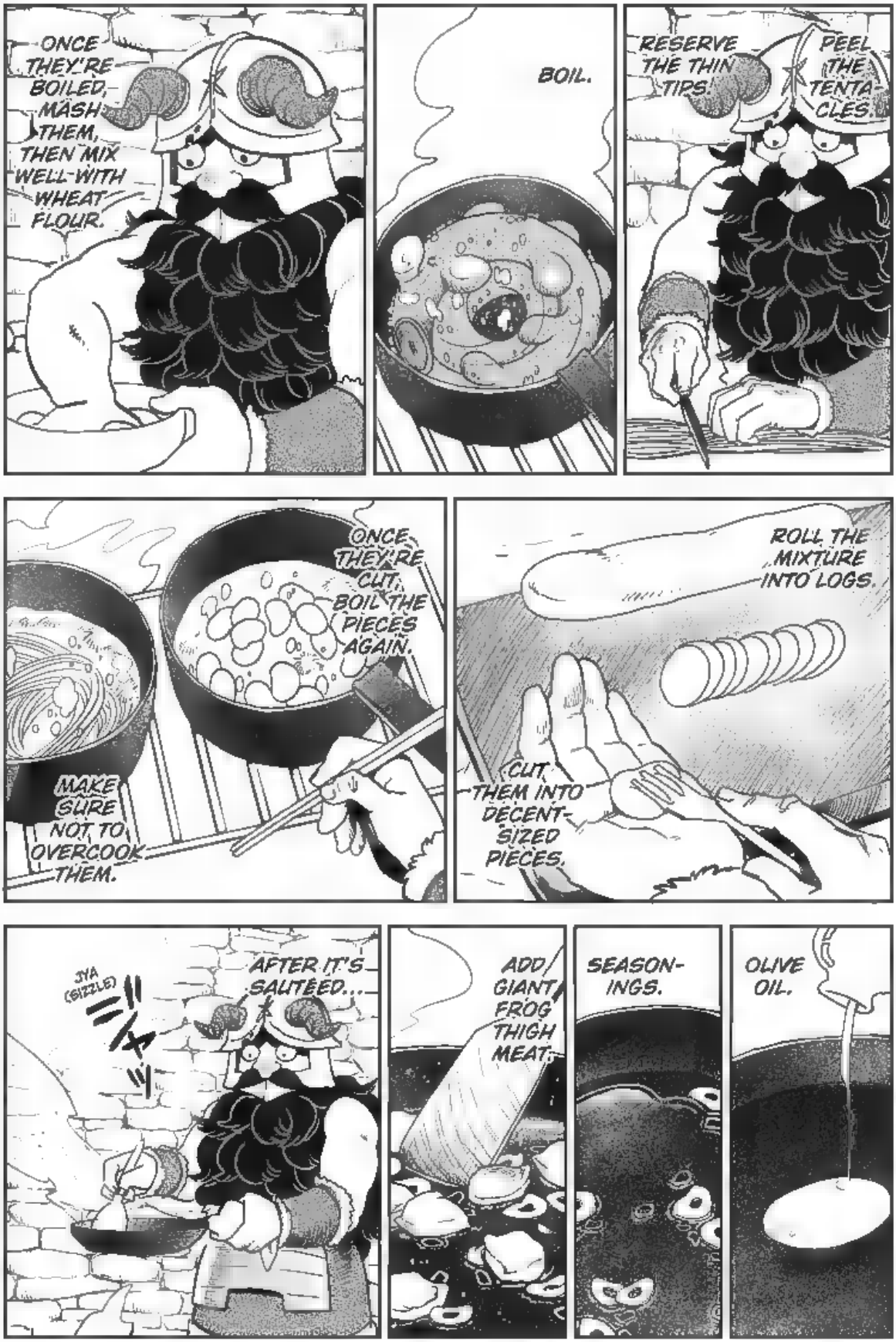

UNGH!
FUA (RELEASE)
DOTE (FWUMP)
HUH!?
IT WON'T COME OUT!
BAKU (CHOMP)


GUBIRI (GULP)
ぐびり
GU (THG)
CHILCHUCK!!
GU
GU
GU
GA (GRUNCH)
GA
GA
GORI (GRATE)
GORI
GORI
GORI
GYARU
GYARU
GYARU
GYARU (SKREEK)
SURUN (SLIP)

IDO (SHAKK)
BASHU (PSHOOT)
DOO (WHUMP)
WAUGH! CHILCHUCK!
GURA (TEETER)
ZURU~
ZURU (DRAG)
PAKA (OPEN)

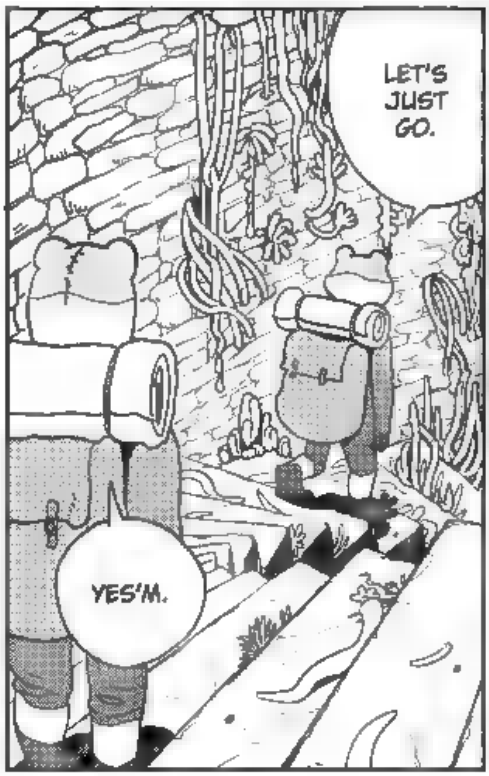
KOFF!
KAFF!
KOFF!
OH, HE'S ALIVE.
I SEE. YOU WRAPPED YOUR HANDS IN GIANT FROG SKIN, HUH?
YOU REALLY WENT FOR IT.
HUH? THEY'RE FINE.
SHOW ME YOUR HANDS! I'LL TREAT THEM!
THAT'S AN INCREDIBLY GOOD IDEA.
CHILCHUCK.

STRIP THE SKIN OFF THE MEAT.
TAKE APART A GIANT FROG.
DRY BRIEFLY.
SEW.
MEASURE.


ONCE THEY'RE BOILED, MASH THEM, THEN MIX WELL WITH WHEAT FLOUR.
BOIL.
RESERVE THE THIN TIPS.
PEEL THE TENTACLES.
ONCE THEY'RE CUT, BOIL THE PIECES AGAIN.
MAKE SURE NOT TO OVERCOOK THEM.
ROLL THE MIXTURE INTO LOGS.
CUT THEM INTO DECENT-SIZED PIECES.
JYA (SIZZLE)
AFTER IT'S SAUTÉED...
ADD GIANT FROG THIGH MEAT.
SEASONINGS.
OLIVE OIL.

IT'S DONE!
TENTACLE GNOCCHI
(Serves 4)
Ingredients
Tentacles—3 medium
Giant frog thigh meat—300 g
Wheat flour—100 g
Salt—A pinch
Olive oil—To taste
Garlic & spicy chili peppers—To taste
IT'S DONE!
FROG SUIT
(For 1)
"Ingredients"
Giant frog skin—1
Cutting tool
Sewing kit
FOR THE LOVE OF...
AAAAARGH.

NOW, NOW. JUST TRY IT ON.
YES, HE'S RIGHT.
TRY A BITE. JUST ONE.
I TOLD YOU, ONE AT A TIME!
SHOW ME ONE AT A TIME!
YOU FINISHED BEFORE I COULD DECIDE WHICH OF YOU TO STOP.
MARCILLE, IF YOU WEAR THIS...
HISO
HISO (WHISPER)
HISO
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THOSE ARE SAFE.
.....
.....
.....
...I THINK IT'LL LOOK REALLY CUTE!


LET'S JUST GO.
YES'M.

CUTE, VERY CUTE.
THAT'S A GREAT COLOR ON YOU.
IT'S ■EAT THE WAY YOUR EARS MAKE THE SILHOUETTE ACTUALLY LOOK FROG-LIKE.

SO (SNEAK)
THEY SURE ARE PRETTY ...
SU (SHUF)
MORURUN
モルルン
IT'S AMAZING! IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL.
MORURUN
モルルン
UGH! GROSS! THIS IS SO GROSS!
MORU (WRIGGLE)
モル
ENERGY
CARBS
PROTEIN
FAT
IRON
CALCIUM
VITAMINS
MOGU CRUNCH
MOGU
もぐ
ZUBI (SLURP)
ZUBA
ズビ
ズバ
YUM.

AH!
KEN-SUKE!!
WHEW.
OH!
LOOK!

THE CASTLE TOWN.
WE'RE ALREADY ON THE FIFTH FLOOR!
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ORCS' STORY WAS TRUE.
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
THE RED DRAGON IS CLOSE.
SIGNS OF A HASTY FLIGHT...
...HUH?
LET'S MOVE CAREFULLY SO WE'LL BE READY TO FIGHT AT ANY TIME.
RIGHT...!

I CAN'T GET THIS THING OFF!
HUH!? WAIT...
RIGHT. BECAUSE THERE WASN'T TIME TO TAN THE HIDES PROPERLY.
UM...
GIANT FROG... BLOOD? IS CAKED ON THE INSIDE...
...AND IT'S STUCK TO MY CLOTHES.
.....
.....
WE'RE FIGHTING THE DRAGON LIKE THIS?
.....
WELL!?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LOOK FALIN IN THE FACE WHEN I SEE HER AGAIN!?
HEY!

To be continued...